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Analysing the judgment and the core issues

The 'original party' is a point of reference

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Gill hits ton, Titans book playoffs spot

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Shivakumar skips Delhi visit; suspense continues

Siddaramaiah claims majority support of MLAs; Congress observers provide feedback from the MLAs-elect to party president Mallikarjun Kharge as the action over CM selection shifts to Delhi

Sandeep Phukan
Nagesh Prabhu
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The suspense over who will be the next Chief Minister of Karnataka continued on Monday even as the team of Congress observers provided feedback from the MLAs-elect to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi.

Congress general secretary in charge for Karnataka Randeep Surjewala and general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal were present in the closed-door meeting at Mr. Kharge's residence where the views of the MLAs-elect were discussed.

Another meeting will take place on Tuesday after Mr. Kharge consults his party colleagues, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The top leadership of the party had called both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for further discussions to Delhi. ANI

Emerging from the meeting, Mr. Surjewala said the observers consulted 138 MLAs, including a Congress associate member and two Independents.

Though the feedback from MLAs was meant to be a confidential exercise, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told a private TV channel that a majority of the MLAs voted for him.

The statement did not go down well with the other chief ministerial contender and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, D.K. Shivakumar, who asserted that he had "delivered Karnataka to the Congress single-handed". He also showed his displeasure by skipping his Delhi visit, citing ill health.

However, the Karnataka Congress chief's brother and Lok Sabha member, D.K. Suresh, had a late-night meeting with Mr. Kharge, sources said.

The Karnataka Congress chief could be offered deputy chief ministership and a couple of portfolios of his choice. Mr. Shivakumar is expected in Delhi on Tuesday for a meeting with Mr. Kharge and Mr. Siddaramaiah.

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SEBI denies probing Adani since 2016; Congress says Minister misled Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), in the Supreme Court on Monday, denied as "factually baseless" the allegation that it had been investigating the Adani Group since 2016, triggering a war of words between the Congress and the Finance Ministry.

The SEBI's affidavit, filed on Sunday, distanced the Adani Group from any "investigations" from 2016. The affidavit was in response to submissions made by advocate Prashant Bhushan before a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, in a hearing in the Hindenburg-Adani case on Friday.

> Which is worse — misleading Parliament, or being fast asleep as lakhs of investors are duped by alleged money-laundering?
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

However, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter to compare the market regulator's claim in its affidavit that "the allegation that SEBI is investigating Adani since 2016 is factually baseless" with a statement made by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha on July 19, 2021.

"The Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, had told the Lok Sabha on July 19, 2021 that SEBI had been investigating the Adani Group. Now SEBI tells the Supreme Court that they have not been investigating any of the serious allegations against Adani! Which is worse – misleading Parliament, or being fast asleep as lakhs of investors are duped by alleged money-laundering and round-tripping using offshore shell companies. Or even worse, was there a restraining hand from above?" Mr. Ramesh tweeted.

The debate in court on Friday was initially centred on a request by SEBI for a six-month extension to complete its inquiry into Hindenburg Research's report accusing the Adani Group of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud schemes over the course of decades".

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NEARBY

'Introduce 'Vedic' Maths as part of degree courses'

BENGALURU
The UGC has ordered the introduction of courses such as 'Vedic' Mathematics, Sanskrit, Yoga, Ayurveda, Astrology, Indian Ethics, Music, and other forms in all universities and higher educational institutions. » Page 2

Questions over Gruha Jyothi scheme

BENGALURU
Congress had announced that if elected to power, they would provide 200 units of free electricity to every household. Citizens have taken to social media to ask how the promise would be kept. » Page 3

Day after disaster

Cyclone-struck: People walk past fallen trees in Kyauktaw in Myanmar's Rakhine. Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Myanmar and southeastern Bangladesh on Sunday, uprooting trees, scattering flimsy dwellings in Rohingya displacement camps and bringing a storm surge into low-lying areas. At least 700 people have been injured so far. AFP

Mamata to back Cong. in other States if it 'sacrifices' Bengal plans

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Two days after the Congress registered a massive victory in the Karnataka Assembly election, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said her party was willing to support the Congress in other States, if it offered to "sacrifice" its aspirations in Bengal and support the Trinamool Congress.

"Wherever the Congress is strong in their respective 200 seats that we have calculated, let them fight, we will support them. But they have to support other political parties as well. If I support you in Karnataka, but you fight against me in Bengal, that should not be the policy. If you want to achieve something good, then you have to sacrifice in certain areas," Ms. Banerjee said at a press conference here.

Elaborating on the "1:1 formula" for the Lok Sabha election, she said that in places where the regional parties were strong and in a politically dominant position, the Congress should make a "sacrifice".

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Turkey faces election run-off

Reuters
ANKARA

Tayyip Erdogan led comfortably on Monday after the first round of Turkey's presidential election, with his rival facing an uphill struggle to prevent the President extending his rule into a third decade in a run-off vote on May 28.

Mr. Erdogan's People's Alliance, comprising his Islamist-rooted AK Party and its nationalist partners, appeared set to win a majority in the new Parliament with 321 of the 600 seats, boosting his chances in the presidential run-off.

RESURGENT ERDOGAN
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Centre against any ethnic division, says Manipur CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Centre has ruled out dividing Manipur on ethnic lines, Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh said on Monday.

"We met Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi yesterday [Sunday] to brief him on the situation in Manipur. He said the State's territorial integrity will not be compromised," he told presspersons in Imphal.

Mr. Singh said stern action would be taken under a suspension of operations (SoO) agreement against extremist groups for possessing weapons illegally.

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TRIBAL MLAS MEET SHAH
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Conductor's experience in hospital labour ward comes in handy on a bus

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

When 52-year-old S. Vasanthamma quit her job as an assistant in the labour ward in a hospital 20 years ago to join the KSRTC as a conductor, she perhaps never imagined that her previous training would come in handy aboard a bus. But that is precisely what happened on Monday, on a Bengaluru-Chikkamagaluru bus.

When 22-year-old Fatima, hailing from Assam, developed labour pains suddenly, Ms. Vasanthamma quickly stepped in to assist her deliver the baby on the bus near Udayapura in Hassan.

Ms. Fatima was travelling from Bengaluru to Chikkamagaluru with her mother-in-law and, a son to join her husband, who works in a coffee estate in Mudigere taluk. She developed labour pain as the bus crossed Channarayapatna. Other passengers noticed her suffering and informed Ms. Vasanthamma. "I realised that delivery could happen at any time. I asked the driver to stop the bus and for all male passengers to get down. Within a few minutes, she delivered a female baby. In the meantime, the passengers contacted the ambulance. By the time the ambulance could reach the spot, the baby was born," said Ms. Vasanthamma. Her experience at the private hospital helped her handle the situation with confidence, she said.

Vasanthamma helps a passenger deliver a baby on board a bus from Bengaluru to Chikkamagaluru near Udayapura in Hassan

Conductor S. Vasanthamma with the newborn.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The young mother was shifted to the community health centre at Shantigrama by ambulance. "She is from a poor family. I requested that the passengers offer some help. We could collect ₹1,500 from the passengers and gave her. Later, I went to the hospital. Both mother and her newborn are fine," she said.

G. Sathyavathi, Managing Director of KSRTC, has appreciated the service of the conductor. "The timely humanitarian service of the woman conductor in responding to the needs of the pregnant woman and saving the lives of the child and mother is highly appreciable," the officer said.

Ms. Vasanthamma also received a call from H.T. Veeresh, Divisional Controller of Chikkamagaluru Depot. The KSRTC will felicitate her in a programme soon.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Appointment letters to be distributed by PM Narendra Modi

71,000 letters. Mr. Modi has distributed appointment letters to 2.9 lakh persons so far. The numbers will go to 3.6 lakh after the latest Rozgar Mela. PTI

The number of people dependent on coal mining in India

50 lakh. India will press for a "just energy transition" at the G-20 parleys, as the transition should cater to the challenge of having so many dependent on coal, Union coal secretary Amrit Lal Meena informed. PTI

Fishermen reach Gujarat after release from Pakistan jail

184 The fishermen who were caught by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency nearly four years ago, were released last week. They were caught for allegedly entering Pakistani waters. PTI

The dip in India's exports in April this year

12.7 In percentage. The government data revealed that compared to the year-ago period, exports and imports decreased in April 2023. Imports declined by about 14% to $49.9 billion. PTI

The fall in application fee for solar equipment makers

80 In percentage. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has taken major reforms to increase the ease of doing business for solar PV manufacturers. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On sexual harassment in the workplace

How did the PoSH Act come into being? How does it define sexual harassment and the workplace? What does it require employers to do? What are the 'serious lapses' flagged by the Supreme Court? What have been the hurdles to the law's implementation?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
Ten years after the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH) came into force, the Supreme Court Bench of India has said there are "serious lapses" and "uncertainty" regarding its implementation.

How was the PoSH Act formed?
In 1992, Bhanwari Devi, a social worker with the Women's Development Project of the Rajasthan government was gang-raped by five men after she tried to prevent the marriage of a one-year-old girl. While hearing pleas filed by activist groups against the crime, the SC, noting the absence of any law "enacted to provide for effective enforcement of the basic human right of gender equality" guarantee against "sexual harassment at workplaces", laid down a set of guidelines in 1997, christened the Vishakha Guidelines, to fill the statutory vacuum till a law could be enacted. These were to be "strictly observed in all workplaces" and were binding and enforceable in law.

After this, the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill was introduced by then Women and Child Development Minister, Krishna Tirath, in 2007. It was later tabled in Parliament and went through amendments. The amended Bill came into force on December 9, 2013, as the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) or PoSh Act.

What is the PoSh Act?
The PoSH Act defines sexual harassment to include unwelcome acts such as physical contact and sexual advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, making sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, and any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature. Under the Act, an employee is defined not just in accordance with the company law. All women employees, whether employed regularly, temporarily, contractually, on an ad hoc or daily wage basis, as apprentices or interns or even employed without the knowledge of the principal employer, can seek redressal to sexual harassment in the workplace.

ISTOCKPHOTO

The law expands the definition of 'workplace' beyond traditional offices to include all kinds of organisations across sectors, even non-traditional workplaces. It applies to all public and private sector organisations throughout India.

What are the requirements imposed on employers?
The law requires any employer with more than 10 employees to form an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) which can be approached by any woman employee to file a formal sexual harassment complaint. It has to be headed by a woman, have at least two women employees, another employee, and a third party such as an NGO worker with five years of experience, familiar with the challenges of sexual harassment. Besides, the Act mandates every district in the country to create a local committee to receive complaints from women working in firms with less than 10 employees and from the informal sector, including domestic workers, home-based workers, voluntary government social workers and so on. The employer has to file an annual audit report with the district officer about the number of sexual harassment complaints filed and actions taken at the end of the year.

What are the hurdles to the Act's implementation?
The Supreme Court in its recent judgment called out the lacunae in the constitution of ICCs, citing a newspaper report that 16 out of the 30 national sports federations in the country had not constituted an ICC to date. The judgment also flagged the improper constitution in cases where the ICCs were established – pointing out that they either had an inadequate number of members or lacked a mandatory external member. This, however, is not the only implementation-related concern when it comes to the PoSH Act. One of the concerns is that the Act does not satisfactorily address accountability, not specifying who is in charge of ensuring that workplaces comply with the Act, and who can be held responsible if its provisions are not followed. Stakeholders also point out how the law is largely inaccessible to women workers in the informal sector. Additionally, experts have noted that in workplaces sexual harassment cases are hugely underreported for a number of reasons. The framers of the law had recognised that complaints could be more effectively addressed within civil institutions (workplaces) so that women did not have to go through the daunting processes of the criminal justice system related to accessibility and timeliness. However, the inefficient functioning and the lack of clarity in the law about how to conduct such inquiries have ended up duplicating the access barriers associated with the justice system. Most importantly, the power dynamics of organisations and fear of professional repercussions also stand in the way of women for filing complaints.

What are the SC's recent directions?
The court directed the Union, States and UTs to undertake a time-bound exercise to verify whether Ministries, Departments, government organisations, authorities, public sector undertakings, institutions, bodies, etc. had constituted Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), Local Committees (LCs) and Internal Committees (ICs) under the Act. These bodies have been ordered to publish the details of their respective committees in their websites.

THE GIST

- The PoSH Act defines sexual harassment to include unwelcome acts such as physical contact and sexual advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, making sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, and any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.
- The Supreme Court in its recent judgment called out the lacunae in the constitution of Internal Complaints Committees (ICC), citing a newspaper report that 16 out of the 30 national sports federations in the country had not constituted an ICC to date.
- One of the concerns is that the Act does not satisfactorily address accountability, not specifying who is in charge of ensuring that workplaces comply with the Act, and who can be held responsible if its provisions are not followed.

What are the gaps in the AePS transaction model?

What is the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System? How are cybercriminals using Aadhaar for financial fraud?

Nabeel Ahmed

The story so far:
Pushpendra Singh, a popular YouTuber, in a Twitter thread, shared how his mother's bank account was drained using an Aadhaar-linked fingerprint without needing a two-factor authentication. His mother was not informed of the transactions by her bank, via message or otherwise. A quick search on Google reveals that similar incidents have been reported in different parts of the country. Cybercriminals are now using silicone thumbs to operate biometric POS devices and biometric ATMs to drain users' bank accounts.

What is AePS?
The Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) is a bank-led model which allows online financial transactions at Point-of-Sale (PoS) devices and micro ATMs of any bank using Aadhaar authentication. The model removes the need for OTPs, bank account and other financial details. It allows fund transfers using only the bank name, Aadhaar number, and fingerprint captured during Aadhaar enrolment, according to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Is AePs enabled by default?
Neither the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) nor NPCI mentions clearly whether AePS is enabled by default. Cashless India, a website managed and run by the MeitY, says the service does not require any activation, with the only requirement being that the user's bank account should be linked with their Aadhaar number. Users who wish to receive any benefit or subsidy under schemes notified under section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, have to mandatorily submit their Aadhaar number to the banking service provider, according to the UIDAI.

How is biometric information leaked?
While Aadhaar data breaches have been reported in 2018, 2019, and 2022, the UIDAI has denied any breach of data. In response to media reports, the UIDAI said that the Aadhaar data, including biometric information, is fully safe and secure. However, UIDAI's database is not the only source from where data can be leaked. "Aadhaar numbers are readily available in the form of photocopies, and soft copies, and criminals are using Aadhaar-enabled payment systems to breach user information. Scammers have, in the past, made use of silicone to trick devices into initiating transactions," cybersecurity expert Rakshit Tandon, told *The Hindu*.

How do you secure your Aadhaar biometric information?
The UIDAI is proposing an amendment to the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016, which will require entities in possession of an Aadhaar number to not share details unless the Aadhaar numbers have been redacted or blacked out through appropriate means, both in print and electronic form. The UIDAI has also implemented a new two-factor authentication mechanism that uses a machine-learning-based security system, combining finger minutiae and finger image capture to check the 'liveness' of a fingerprint. Additionally, users are also advised to ensure that they lock their Aadhaar information by visiting the UIDAI website or using the mobile app. This will ensure that their biometric information, even if compromised, cannot be used to initiate financial transactions. It can be unlocked when the need for biometric authentication arises, such as for property registration and passport renewals, after which it can again be locked.

What can be done in case of a financial scam using Aadhaar?
If users have not already locked their Aadhaar biometric information, they should do so immediately in case of any suspicious activity in their bank accounts. Users are also advised to inform their banks and the concerned authorities as soon as possible. Timely reporting can ensure that any money transferred using fraudulent means is returned to the victim. The RBI in a circular has stated that a customer's entitlement to zero liability arises where the unauthorised transaction occurs, and the customer notifies the bank within three working days of receiving a communication from the bank regarding such unauthorised transaction.

THE GIST

- The Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) is a bank-led model which allows online financial transactions at Point-of-Sale (PoS) devices and micro ATMs of any bank using Aadhaar authentication.
- Cybercriminals are now using silicone thumbs to operate biometric POS devices and biometric ATMs to drain users' bank accounts.
- Users are advised to ensure that they lock their Aadhaar information by visiting the UIDAI website or using the mobile app.

UGC asks institutions to introduce 'Vedic' Mathematics, Astrology as part of degree courses

These courses are short-term multi-tier credit-based modular programmes with multiple entry and exit options

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The UGC also released guidelines in this regard and asked all higher educational institutions to take steps as per them to start such courses. FILE PHOTO

In what is billed an initiation to "attract international learners to India", the University Grants Commission (UGC) has ordered the introduction of courses based on Indian heritage and culture, such as 'Vedic' Mathematics, Sanskrit, Yoga, Ayurveda, Astrology, Indian Ethics, Philosophy, Music, Dance and other forms in all universities and higher educational institutions (HEIs).

The choice of some subjects, such as Astrology, has raised eyebrows.

Guidelines released

In pursuance of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), "which lays emphasis on the promotion of Indian heritage and culture", the UGC is planning to introduce the above courses in HEIs, says the order.

The UGC also released the guidelines in this regard and asked all the HEIs to take necessary steps as per the guidelines to start such courses.

It also recommends inclusion of discourse with acharyas, confluence with religious devotees (satsanga), exposure to folk cultures, and visits to famous places as part of the programmes.

Why this courses

"Indian civilization is one of the most ancient civilizations in the world and it is a universally acknowledged fact that Indians have made a remarkably great contribution to every sphere of knowledge. Indian Universities of the ancient period like Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vallabhi, etc were internationally recognized centres of learning where students from across the world used to visit to get themselves equipped with pedantry in various streams of knowledge. Now the instant scheme has been conceived to realign acquaintances from various countries worldwide with this Indian Knowledge system and cultural heritage," the UGC said.

These courses are short-term multi-tier credit-based modular programmes with multiple entry and exit options. Every programme is of 60-hour duration that may be offered in online or offline mode.

However, some of the courses offered by the UGC, such as Astrology, has drawn criticism by educationists.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, S.G. Siddaramaiah, retired professor and writer, said in the name of introducing Indian heritage and culture to international students, the Union government was thrusting many ideas that are against the very spirit of the secular Constitution.

Courses to be introduced

Indian culture, Indian ethics, 'Vedic' mathematics, Astrology, Ayurveda, Yoga, Indian philosophy, Indian music, Indian dance, Indian percussion and vocal music, Holy geographical regions of India, Archaeological sites of India, Indian arts and architecture, Cultural heritage of India, Indian folklore, Indian stage, Indian drama, Sanskrit drama, Indian inscription, Indian manuscript system, Indian script, Indian rituals, Indian food and fashion, Sanskrit language and literature, Prakrit, Hindi, Kannada and other Indian language and literature.

IIITB and IIHR to come up with automated greenhouse system

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The project, called AutoGrow, will work on a data sensing system, which is being created using Internet of Things.

In collaboration with the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), the Indian Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) is developing an automated greenhouse system for bringing in precision in agriculture. The project, called AutoGrow, will work on a data sensing system, which is being created using Internet of Things (IoT).

The system will also make use of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) techniques to make agriculture self-regulatory, as AutoGrow will optimise crop yield and resource usage based on the data available.

"There are two extremes when it comes to automated greenhouses. In Western countries they have completely automated houses which even control temperature, humidity, climactic parameters and many other conditions. In India, we have completely open farming. We wanted to take the best of both and create a hybrid system which is specific for India," Ramesh Kestur, Project Principal Investigator (PI), IIITB, told *The Hindu*.

The IoT sensors which will be put in the soil will detect the water needs and nutrient needs of the crops. The AI/ML models will then deliver water and nutrients accordingly, as the sensors will also be put inside the tanks or containers. "The final goal is to deploy the sensor system and an AI/ML model into the open farm, which will control water flow, add minerals, and record data such as temperature, humidity, and water flow. Thus, no water or nutrients will be wasted," Dr. Kestur said.

With the AI/ML model, the water flow to the farms will be self-regulatory and will use the novel Wick Irrigation System.

"Wick irrigation can save up to 60% of water compared to traditional drip irrigation systems," said Aswath C.R, Principal Scientist, IIHR.

This system can also be adapted to terrace farming, which can help optimize space and improve crop yield. The IIHR is working with the IIITB to provide biological support as well as to look into ways to make it more useful for farmers.

Further, the system will also ensure that even when the farmers are not available for five or six days, the crops will not dry down as the sensors and the AI/ML model will take care of their watering needs. It is also expected to save a lot of labour and thereby empowering women farmers, the researchers said.

32-year-old arrested for hacking into government sites to steal money

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime officials of the criminal investigation department on Monday arrested a 32-year-old engineering graduate for hacking into government sites to misuse information for personal gain. The accused has been identified as Dilip Raje Gowda, a habitual offender having cybercrime cases in various parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and Telangana. The accused would hack into government websites and the IT department to access sensitive information and siphon off huge amounts of money related to IT refunds.

Based on a complaint that some unknown person gained unauthorised access into the PAN account of the people to access the Income Tax filing portal to alter their IT returns to get refunds, a team of CID cybercrime division officials headed by Superintendent of Police, M.D. Sharath stepped up the probe and tracked down the accused through the bank account where the transaction of the IT refunds happened.

The accused had used fake KYC documents to open the bank account in the name of the victim. In the present case, the accused person was successful in manipulating the IT returns, and a refund to the tune of ₹1,41,84,360 was credited to his account, the police said. The probe revealed that the accused had already siphoned off ₹3.6 crores from different parts of the country. Based on the efforts made by the team and with technical support, the accused person was traced and arrested from Dharwad.

The accused is a native of Hirisave, Hassan district, but is currently residing in Dharwad city. The investigation has revealed that the accused was involved in several vehicle loan frauds, too, where he had taken money from Bajaj Finance and cheated them.

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CBSE exam: THiS schools excel

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

The schools part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme achieved 100% pass in the CBSE examination. The results were declared on Friday.

National Hill View Public School, R.R. Nagar, achieved 100% pass in both Classes X and XII. In Class X, 147 students appeared and 118 secured distinction. Sanvi Aithal (495 marks) was the topper. In Class XII, 67 students appeared and 49 secured distinction. Sambhav S. Baid (489 marks) was the topper.

National Public School, Koramangala, achieved 100% pass for 17 years. In all, 86 students appeared and 81 secured distinction in Class XII. In Science, Advik Kabra (488 marks) and in Commerce, Ananya Miriam Jose and Anjali Shivakumar (488 marks) emerged toppers. In Class X, 92 students appeared and 88 secured distinctions. Sneha Das (490 marks) was the topper. The school achieved 100% pass for the 18th year.

In Sri Siddaganga Higher Primary School, Chandra Layout, 106 students appeared and 88 secured distinction in Class X. Dhanya P., by scoring 576 marks, was the topper.

In Kendriya Vidyalaya, NAL Campus, in Class XII Science 82 appeared and all passed, while in Commerce, 38 appeared and 31 passed. Athish Shubham (96.4%) in Science and Kruthika S.(96.2%) in Commerce are toppers. In Class X, S. Rithanya (97.6%) was the topper.

In St. Sophia Convent High School, Nagarabhavi, 48 students appeared and 18 secured distinction. The school achieved 100% pass for six years. Tanmay R. by scoring 569 marks was the topper.

The first batch of Airaa Academy, Banashankari 6th Stage, achieved 100% pass with all 11 students passing. Neha Mahendra Bandlapalli (91.6%) was the topper.

CMR institute celebrates graduation day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CMR Institute of Technology celebrated its 20th graduation day ceremony where 1,201 students received honours.

The graduates, who completed their studies in various fields including Engineering, Management, and Computer Applications, were felicitated during the ceremony.

The event was attended by T.G. Sitharam, chairman of AICTE. Speaking on this occasion, Prof. Sitharam urged the budding engineers to utilise their critical thinking, problem-solving, emotional intelligence, communication skills, and innovative ideas to build a vibrant nation through innovations in Science and Technology.

He highlighted the initiatives by AICTE and encouraged the students to inculcate hard work and sincerity to achieve success.

He added that the future belongs to entrepreneurs and that innovation will come to the fore with more and more start0ups, leading India to become a global pioneer in enterprise and technology.

K.C. Ramamurthy, chairman CMR Groups of Institutions and former member of Rajya Sabha, applauded the graduates on their achievements and urged them to continue learning and growing in their respective fields.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sri C Satheesh Kumar, S/o Prathap Reddy, aged about 51 years r/at No.114/19/1, 9thcross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-60027, have purchased the agricultural land bearing old Sy.No.109/3, new Sy.No.169, measuring 1 acre and 26 guntas, situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore from its absolute owners by name Sri M Narayanappa S/o Late Muniyappa and others under registered sale deed dated 9/7/2004, registered a document bearing No.BAS-1-09385-2004-05, stored in C.D No. BASD78, book No 1, registered before the sub-registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, for valuable sale consideration, w.r.t the said property there are litigations pending in OS No 1299/2019, on the file of 2nd Addl senior Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural District at Bangalore and OS No 498/2020 pending before Principal Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural District at Bangalore and the same are pending for consideration. I hereby call upon the general public not to enter in to any kind of agreement for purchase of the said land or any contract or purchase the said property from any persons, who claims to be purchasers of he said land and if you do so, you will be dong at your own risk. Public is cautioned not to enter into such transactions with respect to above property.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Sy.No.109/3, new Sy No.169, measuring 1 acre 26 guntas situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded as follows:-

East By: Road, West by: Land in Sy.No. 109 of Gopal Reddy, S/o S.R. Muniswayappa, North By: Land bearing Sy.No 110/4 belonging to Purchaser, South by: land in Sy.No.109 of Avalappa

RANGANATH REDDY LAW ASSOCIATES
#114/19/1, 9TH Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027
Email : ranganathreddy60@gmail.com
Ph : 9164855447, 9964508536

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that, our client has proposed to purchase the Schedule property from its present owners **SRI.DINESH KUMAR B.P. AND SRI.RAMANANDA B.P.**, Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/ claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **1 week** from this day of publication and any objection/ claims received thereafter will not be binding on our client and our client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

-:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:-

All that piece and parcel of an immovable residential property bearing **House No.21**, property No.14, Old Khatha No.355, New BBMP Municipal No.355B, New PID No.83-26-355B, Situated at **Mallesh Palya Extn. (Maruthi Nagar), Kaggadasapura Dhakale, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and measuring East to West 30 Ft. and North to South 40 Ft. in all measuring **1200 Sq.Ft.**, and bounded on:

East by: House No.20, West by: House No.22, North by: House No.35, South by : Road, along with 5 Sq. on Ground Floor and 4 Sq. on First Floor constructed building thereon.

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Mr.T.Srinivas Reddy S/o. Sri. Thirupal Reddy, Residing at Flat No. 495, "VASAVI ROYAL," Doddathoguru Village, Electronic City Phase-1, Bangalore- 560 100.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their valid objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential plot No. 253, curved in Sy. Nos. 79/4, 93/2 & 94/2 Panchyathi katha No. 8090/253, PID No.15020030110012795 8 measuring East to West 45 Ft. and North to South 30 Feet in all measuring 1350 Sq. Ft. in the Layout Known as "CELEBRITY PARADISE" formed out of converted land bearing Sy. No. 93/1, 93/2, 94/2, 94/3, 94/4, 94/5, 94/6, 79/1 & 79/4 146/1, situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk , together with residential building constructed thereon and bounded on :- East by : plot No. 277 & 276B, West by:30 Feet Wide Road, North by: Plot No. 254, South by : Plot No. 252.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
 # 96, 1 Floor, 1 Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 15-05-2023

SAI
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NETAJI SUBHAS SOUTHERN CENTRE, BENGALURU
Date: 15/5/2023

CORRIGENDUM

1. Reference to Advertisement dated 01/05/2023, the last date to submit the on line applications to the post of Catering Manager is extended up to 18/05/2023.

The details of recruitment along with application form are available at SAI website i.e; http://sportsauthorityofIndia.nic.in/ and http://www.saibengaluru.com/

SAI reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason. For any recruitment related query, e-mail to rcbengaluru.sai@gov.in & jobs.saibangalore@gmail.com

Sd/-
Regional Director Incharge
Sports Authority of India,
NSSC, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule properties from its Owners (i) **Sri.B.Basavaraju** S/o Late Sri.Basappa, residing at No.577/4, 'Ananya', Balappa Layout, Bidadi Main Road, Bidadi, Ramanagara-562109; (ii) **Sri.Ravi Ankineedu Prasad Rao** S/o Sri.Subbarayadu, residing at No.138, 4th 'A' Cross, Kasthuri Nagar, Bangalore-560043 & (iii) **Sri.R.K.Surendra Babu** S/o Sri.R.Krishnaiah Chetty, residing at No.85, 2nd Floor, Nagasandra Main Road, Tata Silk Farm, Bangalore – 560028.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule properties or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for this sale transaction, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural lands totally measuring **7 Acres 09.08 Guntas**, as detailed herein below, situated at Ittamadu Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District:

Sl. No	Sy.No.	Extent A - G	Boundaries East	West	North	South
1	151/5	00-21	Sy.No.151/8	Sy.No.152/6	Sy.No.151/4	Sy.No.151/6
2	175/2	01-22.08	Nala and Sy.No.175/3	Sy.Nos.175/5, 175/6 and 83	Sy.No.175/6	Sy.No.175/11 and 175/3
3	175/5	00-20	Nala and Private Land	Sy.No.150/6	Sy.No. 175/1B	Sy.No.175/6
4	175/8	01-08.08	Private land and Nala	Sy.No.175/12	Sy.Nos. 175/12 and 175/1A	Sy.No.175/1B
5	175/1B	01-19.08	Private land and Nala	Sy.Nos.175/1, 150/4 and 150/5	Sy.No.175/8	Remaining portion in Sy. No.175/1B
6	175/12	01-38	Sy.No. 175/1A	Sy.Nos.175/13 and land in Sy.No.150	Sy.No., 175/13, 133 and 134	Sy.No.175/8 and 150/4

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client Mrs. Hemavathi .K, W/o K.V. Vasudev has lost the Original property documents as follows: **(1) Sale Deed dated 01/08/2014 Doc. No. 2427/2014-2015, Book No.1 CD No. CKBD111 at SRO Chikkaballapura with respect to the land bearing Survey No. 4/1 measuring 1 Acres 22 Guntas Situated at Kothanur Village, Nandhi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, executed by Mrs. Anjinamma, W/o Late. Ramappa, in favor of Mr. Muniraju K, S/o Kempanna.** All the people are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction which anyone on the basis of the said missing documents. Kindly inform my client Hemavathi .K writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days from this present. Mrs. Hemavathi .K, R/o. Kolavanahallli Village, Srirampura Post, Chikkaballapur T & D, Mobile No: 9972949404.

Sd/- **Mr. ANAND .H,** Advocate
Venkateshwara Complex, Opposite to Shushrusha Hospital, B.B. Road,
Yelahanka Old Town, Bengaluru-560064.
Mobile: 9448331399, 8553776888

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has negotiated to purchase the property which is more fully described, in the schedule below from its owners Mrs NAGALAKSHMI SHANKAR wife of Dr T M Shankar, flat No.D-605, "Purva Venezia" , Castello Block, Yelahanka New Town Bengaluru -560064

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, Lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/ instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/their objection's claim/s, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within FIFTEEN days of the issuance of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

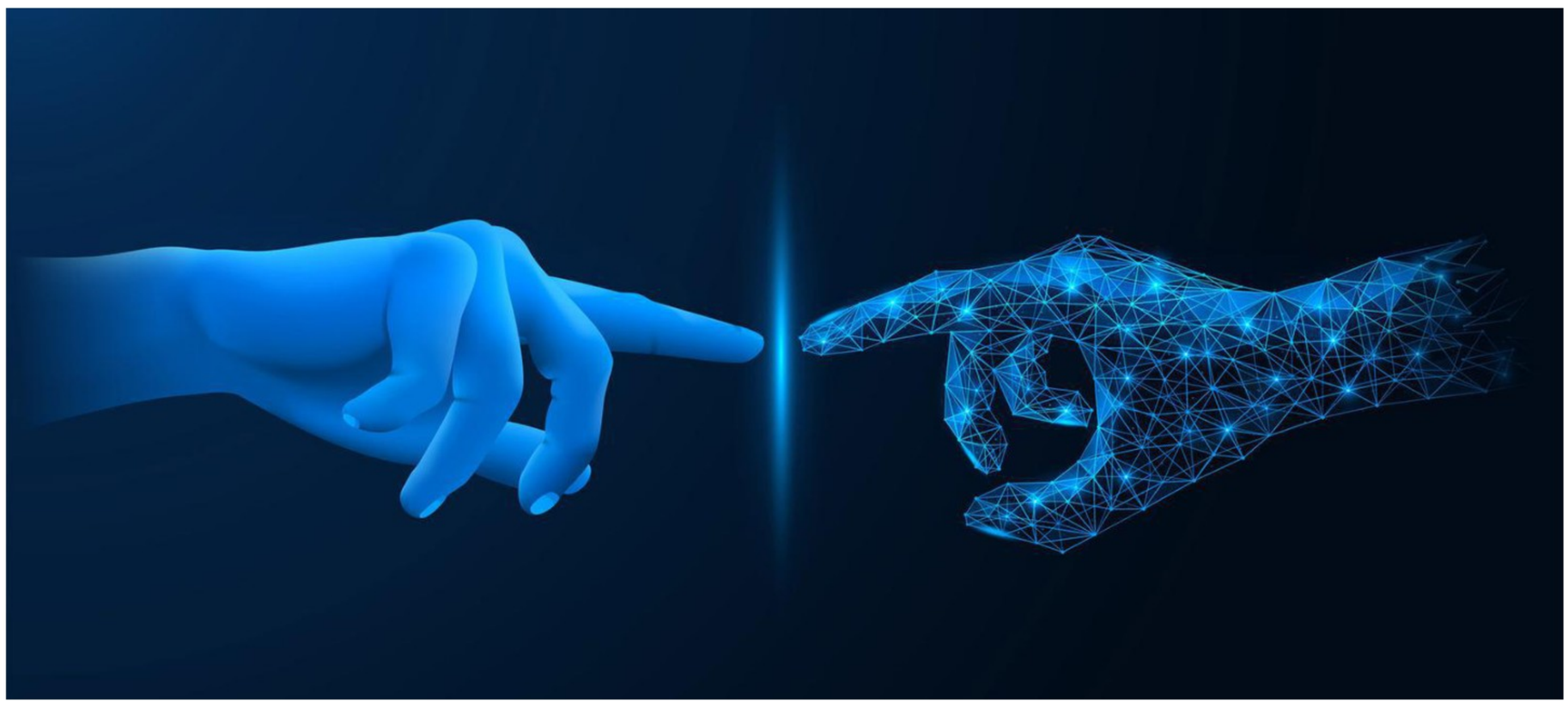
SCHEDULE

All that Residential Property presently bearing Municipal No.2799, constructed On Site bearing No.2799, allotted by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated at 15th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Ward No.56, New Ganeshmandira Ward No.165, Bengaluru, PID No.56-12-2799, measuring East to West:40 Feet and North to South:60 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet and bounded as follows:-

ON THE EAST : Property bearing No.2798;
West : Property bearing No.2800;
North : Road
South : Property bearing No.2792
Bengaluru

(K.S. MADANA GOPAL)
Advocate
No.1, Ground Floor,
Royal Park, No.34, Park Road,
Bengaluru – 560 004
Ph. No. 41130082 / 22864065

CACHE



ISTOCKPHOTO

What is a transformer, the machine learning model that powers ChatGPT?

In a pioneering paper entitled 'Attention Is All You Need' that appeared in 2017, a team at Google proposed transformers — a deep neural network architecture that has today gained popularity across all modalities. The capital 'T' in ChatGPT stands for 'transformer'

Makarand Tapaswi

Machine learning (ML), a subfield of artificial intelligence, teaches computers to solve tasks based on structured data, language, audio, or images, by providing examples of inputs and the desired outputs. This is different from traditional computer programming, where programmers write a sequence of specific instructions. Here, the ML model learns to generate desirable outputs by adjusting its many knobs – often in the millions.

ML has a history of developing methods with hand-crafted features that may work only for specific, narrow problems. There are several such examples. In text, classifying a document as scientific or literary may be solved by counting the number of times certain words appear. In audio, spoken text is recognised by converting the audio into a time-frequency representation. In images, a car may be found by checking for the existence of specific car-like edge-shaped patterns. Such hand-crafted features are combined with simple, or shallow, learning classifiers that typically have up to tens of thousands of knobs. In technical parlance, these knobs are called parameters.

Deep neural networks

In the first part of the 2010s, deep neural networks (DNNs) took over ML by storm, replacing the classic pipeline of hand-crafted features and simple classifiers. DNNs ingest a complete document or image and generate a final output, without the need to specify a particular way of extracting features.

While these deep and large models have existed in the past, their large size – millions of parameters – hindered their use. The resurgence of DNNs in the 2010s is attributed to the availability of large-scale data and fast parallel computing chips called graphics processing units. Furthermore, the models used for text or images were still different – recurrent neural networks were popular in language understanding while convolutional neural networks (CNNs) were popular in computer vision, that is, a machine understanding of the visual world.

'Attention Is All You Need'

In a pioneering paper entitled 'Attention Is All You Need' that appeared in 2017, a team at Google proposed transformers – a DNN architecture that has today gained popularity across all modalities (image, audio, and language). The original paper proposed transformers for the task of translating a sentence from one language to another, similar to what Google Translate does when converting a sentence from, say, English to Hindi.

A transformer is a two-part neural network. The first part is an 'encoder' that ingests the input sentence in the source language (English) and the second part is a 'decoder' that generates the translated sentence in the target language (Hindi). The encoder converts each word in the source sentence to an abstract numerical form that captures the meaning of the word within the context of the sentence, and stores it in a memory bank. Just like a person would write or speak, the decoder generates one word at a time referring to what has been generated so far and by looking back at the memory bank to find the appropriate word. Both these processes use a mechanism called 'attention', hence the name of the paper. A key improvement over previous methods is the ability of a transformer to translate long sentences or paragraphs correctly. The adoption of transformers subsequently exploded. The capital 'T' in ChatGPT, for example, stands for 'transformer'.

Transformers have also become popular in computer vision as they simply cut an image into small square patches and line them up, just like words in a sentence. By doing so, and after training on large amounts of data, a transformer can provide better results than CNNs. Today, transformer models constitute the best approach for image classification, object detection and segmentation, action recognition, and a host of other tasks.

Transformers' ability to ingest anything has been exploited to create joint vision-and-language models which allow users to search for an image (eg, Google Image Search), describe one, and even answer questions regarding the image.

What is 'attention'?

Attention in ML allows a model to learn how much importance should be given to different inputs. In the translation example, attention allows the model to select or weigh words from the memory bank when deciding which word to generate next. While describing an image, attention allows models to look at the relevant parts of the image when generating the next word.

A fascinating aspect of attention-based models is their ability for self-discovery, by parsing a lot of data. In the translation case, the model is never told that the word 'dog' in English means *kutta* in Hindi. Instead, it finds these associations by seeing several training sentence pairs where 'dog' and *kutta* appear together. A similar observation applies to image captioning. For an image of a "bird flying above water", the model is never told which region of the image corresponds to "bird" and which "water". Instead, by training on several image-caption pairs with the word "bird", it discovers common patterns in the image to associate the flying thing with "bird".

Transformers are attention models on steroids. They feature several attention layers both within the encoder, to provide meaningful context across the input sentence or image, and from the decoder to the encoder when generating a translated sentence or describing an image.

The billion and trillion scale

In the last year, transformer models have become larger and train on more data than before. When these colossuses train on written text, they are called large language models (LLMs). ChatGPT uses hundreds of billions of parameters whereas GPT-4 uses hundreds of trillions.

While these models are trained on simple tasks, such as filling in the blanks or predicting the next word, they are very good at answering questions, creating stories, summarising documents, writing code, and even solving mathematical word problems in steps. Transformers are also the bedrock of generative models that create realistic images and audio. Their utility in diverse domains make transformers a very powerful and universal model. However, there are some concerns. The scientific community is yet to figure out how to evaluate these models rigorously. There are also instances of "hallucination", whereby models make confident but wrong claims. We must urgently address societal concerns, such as data privacy and attribution to creative work, that arise as a result of their use.

At the same time, given the tremendous progress, ongoing efforts to create guardrails guiding their use, and work on leveraging these models for positive outcomes (for example in healthcare, education, and agriculture), optimism would not be misplaced.

Dr. Makarand Tapaswi is a senior machine learning scientist at Wadhwani AI, a non-profit on using AI for social good, and an assistant professor at the computer vision group at IIIT Hyderabad, India.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

FC Barcelona is the 2022-23 Spanish La Liga champion for the 27th time after taking an insurmountable lead on Sunday. Here is a quiz on La Liga history

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

The highest scorer in the La Liga this year has been Robert Lewandowski of FC Barcelona. If he maintains this record till Round 38, which trophy will he win? And who is it named after?

QUESTION 2

Barcelona's goalkeeper has conceded only 13 goals this season — the least by any keeper in the league. If that record holds till the last round, what trophy will he win? And who is it named after?

QUESTION 3

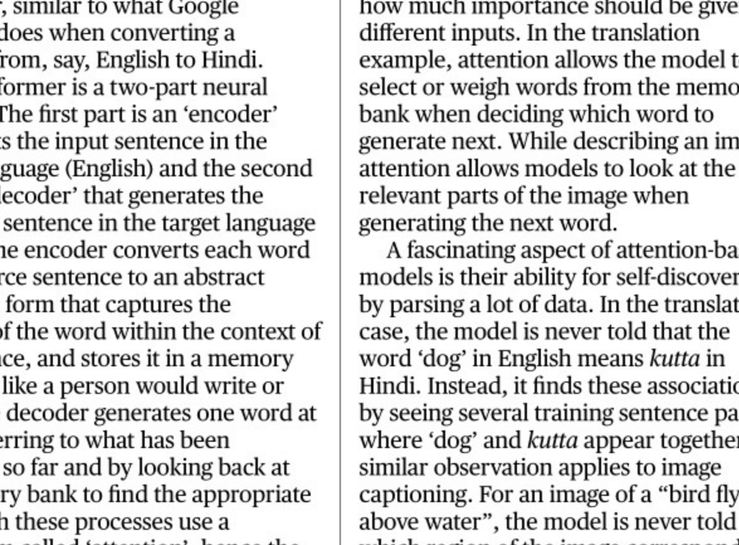
Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are placed first and second in the list of top overall goal scorers in La Liga. Who is placed third and which club did he predominantly play for?

QUESTION 4

The club in question 3 has a distinctive feature in terms of how it selects players to play for the club — a tradition that has lasted since club origins. What is the feature?

QUESTION 5

Which team, currently languishing in 19th place, did Barcelona beat to capture the 2022-23 title? The team also holds the record for the most overall number of losses in La Liga.



Visual question:
The player in the picture holds the record for the most appearances in La Liga. Name him AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The other Bengal cinema icon who debuted in *Raat Bhore*. **Ans: Uttam Kumar**

2. The third film of Mrinal Sen. **Ans: *Baishey Srabon*. It is also the date on which Rabindranath Tagore passed away.**

3. The other two films considered part of Mrinal's 'Calcutta trilogy' with *Calcutta 71.* **Ans: *Padatik* and *Interview***

4. The acclaimed 1969 work, in which Amitabh Bachchan debuted as a voice-over narrator. **Ans: *Bhuvan Shome***

5. The subject of Sen's 1967 documentary *Moving Perspectives.* **Ans: 5000 years of Indian history**

6. The Bengali name of the acclaimed film that opened with the title card: 7 September 1980. A group from Calcutta ...". **Ans: *Akaler Sandhane***

7. The eatery in Kolkata where Sen, Salil Chowdhury, Ritwik Ghatak, and Hrishikesh Mukherjee would have 'addas'. **Ans: Paradise Cafe**

Visual: The 1983 film that won a Jury Prize at the 1983 Cannes Film Festival. **Ans: *Kharij* (The Case is Closed)**

Early Bird: V. Siddhartha

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

"Good morning sir."

"Good morning. Nice to see you after a long time. How are you?"

"Very well, thank you. Sir, you sent me some questions. You want me to read them out?"

"Yes, I'll answer them one by one. You can interrupt me when you don't follow me. Now read out the first question."

"Sir, Mr. Hari Krishna Reddy, CC-6, L. Camp, Kurnool, wants to know the difference between 'manslaughter' and 'murder'."

" 'Murder' is motivated killing. You detest someone for some reason. You plan and kill him. That's murder. 'Manslaughter' is killing without premeditation. It could be accidental. Both 'manslaughter' and 'murder' are unlawful."

"Sir, the result of murder and manslaughter is the same. Does it make any difference to the dead person?"

"No, it doesn't. But the living ones worry about the how and why of a person's death."

"Sir, Mr. V. Rajagopalan wants to know the difference between 'delete' and 'omit'".

" 'Delete' means 'to cross out or remove; a letter, word or passage from a writing.' I will give some examples.

Please delete the word 'likely' from the second sentence.

Don't delete the fifth sentence. If you do, the paragraph will lose its force.

'Omit' means 'to leave out, not insert or include'. When you delete something, you do it deliberately. When you omit something, it may be deliberate or it may be the result of carelessness or absent-mindedness. Let me give some examples.

I asked you to copy this letter. But you have omitted these two sentences.

You don't have to study all the lessons for the examination. You can omit the first two lessons.

'Omit' also means 'to fail to do,' 'neglect'. Now listen to these sentences.

He omitted to thank Ram when he proposed a vote of thanks.

He omitted to tell his lawyer an important fact.

I don't know whether I have omitted any other meaning of the word 'omit'. Well, what's the next question?"

"Sir, Mr. Ajay Jain wants to know the pronunciation of 'manoeuvre'."

"It is pronounced 'manoova'. The 'a' in the word is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China,' 'oe' is pronounced like the 'oo' in 'food'. The final 'e' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The 'r' in the word is silent. The stress is on the second syllable."

"Sir, isn't the word spelled differently in American English?"

"Yes you are right. It is spelled 'maneuver'.

"Sir, how is the word 'spelled' spelt? Is it 'spelled' or 'spelt'?"

"Both are correct. You choose what you like."

"Mr. A. S. Singh, Nepal, wants to know what a 'palindrome' is."

"Let's take the word 'madam'. The word is the same whether you read it forwards or backwards. Such a word is called a palindrome. A 'palindrome' can be a word or a sentence."

Published in The Hindu on January 5, 1988.

Word of the day

Smorgasbord:
a collection containing a variety of things

Synonyms: potpourri, motley, variety, assortment, mixture, miscellany, mixed bag

Usage: *A veritable smorgasbord of religions.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/smorgasbordpro

International Phonetic Alphabet:
/ˈsmɔːgæs(ˌ)bɔːd/, /ˈsmɔːgəs(ˌ)bɔːd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Researchers design photonic memory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers from the Bengaluru-based Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) have designed a photonic memory, based on tin oxide slanted nanorod arrays, which shows great potential for the development of high-density and high-efficient computing systems.

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the CeNS team, comprising Swathi S.P., Athira M., and S. Angappane, developed the photonic memory in which the tin oxide slanted nanorod arrays are used as an active layer.

The tin oxide nanostructures are prepared by electron-beam evaporation through a technique called the glancing angle deposition (GLAD) technique.

"The electron-beam evaporation is a physical vapor deposition method wherein a focused electron beam is made to bombard the desired target material, which results in its vaporization, and eventually, deposition of the target material onto the substrate. GLAD facilitates the preparation of complex nanostructures by manipulating the coordinates (tilt and rotation) of the substrate," stated the Ministry.

It added that the researchers observed good switching characteristics of the memory devices, including low operating voltages, moderate ON/OFF ratio (refers to the ratio of current in the ON state (low resistance state-LRS) to the OFF state (high resistance state- HRS) of the memory device), longer endurance, and better retention with a self-compliance effect in the dark.

Researchers of CeNS have designed such a functional memory and the research was recently published in ACS Applied Materials.

Questions over implementation of Gruha Jyothi scheme

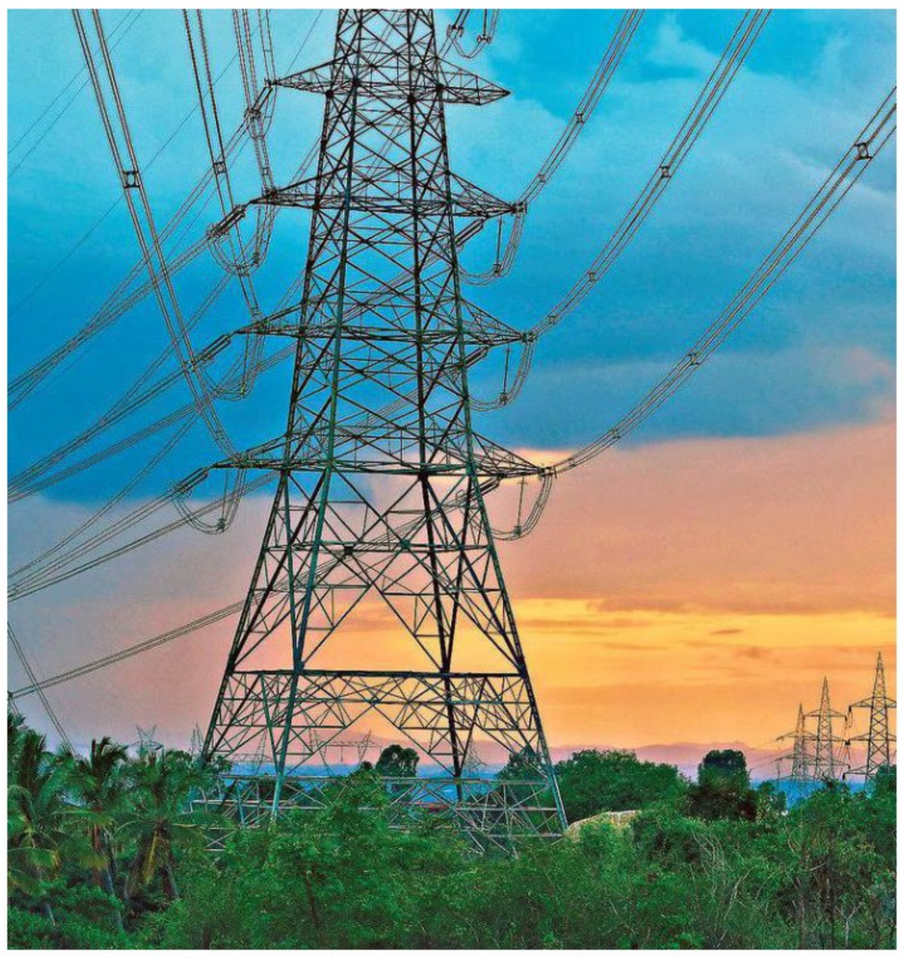
Just a day before the election results were announced, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission announced an average tariff hike of 70 paise per unit for all consumers

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

As a powerplay is on for the Chief Minister's seat after the polls, the Congress is in the spotlight for a powerful promise it made before it won the elections.

In January this year, the Congress leaders announced that if elected to power, they would provide 200 units of free electricity to every household in the State. However, just a day before the election results were announced, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) announced an average tariff hike of 70 paise per unit for all consumers, one of the steepest hikes in recent times.

Soon after the Congress was declared to have a majority, curious citizens took to social media to ask power-related questions, ranging from what the tariff hike implies to how the promise would be kept.



In January this year, the Congress leaders announced that if elected to power, they would provide 200 units of free electricity to every household in the State. FILE PHOTO

Tariff hike valid

As of now, there is one straight answer: the average 70 paise tariff hike is valid until the next tariff revision.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, P. Ravikumar, chairman, KERC, said, "There is going to be no change in tariff. The implementation of whatever has been promised is on the government. They might either cover the bills by directly paying to the electricity supply companies (Escoms) or by transferring the amount to the consumers' accounts," he said.

Under some of the current subsidy schemes, including the one where 75 units of power are provided for free to SC/ST families, the government has opted the direct benefit transfer system where consumers are reimbursed after the bill is paid.

According to sources in Escoms, the new government might opt for the same system if the 'Gruha Jyothi' (free 200 units of power) scheme is implemented. There has also been a lot of discussion since the announcement of the scheme about its impact on the Exchequer.

A senior official in the Finance department revealed that according to a preliminary estimate, the amount needed for the implementation of the scheme might come up to the tune of ₹9,000 crore annually.

While the amount might vary depending on the implementation of the scheme, the current power subsidy bill annually runs into ₹14,000 crore. While questions about the feasibility of the scheme from the Exchequer's point of view still remains unanswered, sources in the Energy Department said that from their end, the implementation would not see any hurdles.

"If it is being implemented in Delhi, then it is not difficult to implement it here. There will be no problems when it comes to power supply for the same. The new government should just work out a way to pay the Escoms directly or indirectly," a source said.

Citizens worried over power woes during monsoon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The pre-monsoon showers this time led to a lot of power fluctuations, especially in the night in the city. Although there were no incidents of uprooted trees or extreme flooding, some localities also witnessed power interruptions which lasted almost half a day.

"If there are minor interruptions in the day, we often do not even notice it. But in the nights, we see repeated instances of power fluctuation. For those who work from home in the night shifts or for students who study till late hours, these unexpected fluctuations are causing a major inconvenience," complained Nikhila M., an IT employee from Yelahanka.

Although there was rain, the temperature in the city did not drop significantly and hence citizens had to deal with the heat too. Thus, power outages during the daytime also caused some displeasure among consumers.

"Come any season, Bescom does not provide uninterrupted power. On one day, we did not have power for around three hours in the afternoon. Our power backup option does not support continuous running of fans. With senior citizens in the house, it is difficult to manage the heat if such outages occur unexpectedly," said Sourabh K., a resident of Banashankari.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) officials said that not being able to identify rain patterns in the last couple of weeks led to power interruptions, specifically during nights.

"It has mostly rained in the evenings and nights the last few days and as it is dark at those times, it is difficult for us to identify which insulator or wire if faulty. That is why there are fluctuations in the night," a senior official said.

Activists suggest that Bescom should conduct regular maintenance of their infrastructure. FILE PHOTO

He further said that if there were rain predictions, then extra staff members were being asked to stay back as the numbers are fewer at nights. With the monsoon soon approaching, Bescom has already begun its preventative work to reduce such interruptions, including the pruning of dry branches, and is confident of managing without major outages this year unless there are heavy winds or large trees uprooted.

Activists suggested that Bescom should conduct regular maintenance of their infrastructure to ensure that there is no last-minute preparation involved.

"The maintenance of transformers, electricity lines, and other things can be taken up as and when a need arises as they are all static infrastructure. Besides, Bescom should also identify the gaps which need attention and follow a decentralised approach in each division to cut down on consumer woes," said Sharath S.R., of Bangalore Political Action Committee (BPAC).

Villagers protest over statue desecration

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residents of Yenagunte village near Hosakote staged a protest on Monday after an Ambedkar statue was descrated on Sunday night.

The incident came to light on Monday when passers-by noticed that someone had lit a fire at the base of the statue. Due to the smoke, a part of the statue was blackened.

Villagers staged a protest and blocked the road demanding immediate arrest of the accused.

The Sulibele police rushed to the spot and pacified the protesters assuring necessary action.

The police have Initiated probe to identify the accused.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 16		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	03:19	SET 15:46
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 17		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	03:59	SET 16:39
THURSDAY, MAY. 18		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	04:40	SET 17:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	27
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Double-decker express train derails, no one hurt

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A double-decker express train heading towards Bengaluru derailed on Monday, near Bisanattam station (20 km from Bangarpet). The incident happened around 11.30 a.m. No one was injured.

South Western Railway officials said that a pair of wheels of a coach of the Dr. MGR Chennai Central - KSR Bengaluru Double Decker Express (train number 22625) derailed soon after leaving Bisanattam.

The train heading towards Bengaluru derailed near Bisanattam station on Monday.

After detaching the affected coach, the train left for Bengaluru.

"Around 130 passengers were travelling in the coach that derailed. All of them were accommodated in other coaches, and the train was expected to reach Bengaluru before 3.15 p.m," said an official of the SWR. The incident forced the SWR to cancel or divert four trains including three MEMU trains.

Senior officers of the Bengaluru division rushed to the spot with an Accident Relief Train for the restoration of the track.

Impact on other trains

Train No. 06529 KSR Bengaluru - Kuppam MEMU special was partially cancelled between Kuppam and Bangarpet, and short terminated at Kuppam. Its pairing Train No. 06530 Kuppam - KSR Bengaluru MEMU Special was rescheduled to originate from Bangarpet.

Train No. 12245 Howrah - Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Duranto Express, which commenced its journey from Howrah on May 14, was diverted via Tirupattur - Magnesite Jn - Omalur - Hosur Jolarpettai Jn. - Kuppam - Bangarapet Jn. -Krishnarajapuram.

On April 21, train services on the Bengaluru-Salem section were disrupted after a goods train derailed between Marandahalli and Rayakottai stations.

Police in the dock for assaulting two persons over trivial row

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A student of a private college and his cousin were allegedly assaulted by a group of police personnel after a "misunderstanding" on Saturday.

Social media post

The victim, Sairaj Natraj, put out a post on social media with photographs of the injuries, prompting the police to initiate a probe. Mr. Natraj, in his post, said that the incident occurred around 7.30 p.m. at Chandapura Circle in Anekal on the outskirts of the city.

Mr. Natraj posted his ordeal seeking action against the erring policemen.

Taking note of the incident, senior police officials asked the neighbouring Surya Nagar police to probe the incident and take necessary action.

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‘Online games of skill are not taxable as betting and gambling under GST Act’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Giving a huge relief for companies offering online games of skills, the High Court of Karnataka has ruled that online/electronic/digital game of rummy and other online/electronic/digital game of skills are not taxable as ‘betting’ and ‘gambling’ under the Central Goods and Services (GST) Act.

“The expressions, ‘betting’ and ‘gambling’ having become *nomen juris*, the same are applicable for the purpose of GST also and consequently, the said words, ‘betting’ and ‘gambling’ contained in Entry 6 of Schedule III to the CGST Act are not applicable to online/electronic/digital Rummy, whether played with stakes or without stakes as well as to any other online/electronic/digital games which are also substantially and preponderantly games of skill,” the court said.

Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar made these observations in his judgement on a petition filed by Gameskart Technologies Pvt Ltd, an online gaming platform company.

The company had questioned the September 23, 2022 show cause notice issued by the Directorate of GST alleging that the company had engaged in ‘gambling’ and had evaded payment of GST at the rate of 28% on the entire sum paid by the players for playing the game on its platform. The GST Directorate, in its notice, had alleged that the company had evaded GST of around ₹21,000 crore

The company was paying GST at 18% only on the platform fees collected by it from the players and not on the entire money pooled in by the players to play rummy, and had contended that rummy being a game of skill cannot be brought under the definition of ‘betting’ and ‘gambling’.

Taxation of games of skill is outside the scope of the term “supply” in view of Section 7(2) of the CGST Act, 2017 read with Schedule III of the Act, the court said while upholding company’s contentions.

The court said that claims and arguments, put forth on behalf of GST authorities, are “an outcome of a vain and futile attempt on the part of the respondents to cherry pick stray sentences from the judgments of various Courts including the apex court, this court and other High Courts and try to build up a non-existent case out of nothing which clearly amounts to splitting hairs and clutching at straws which cannot be countenanced and is impermissible in law.”

“Though Section 2(17) of the CGST Act recognises even wagering contracts as included in the term business, but that in itself would not mean that lottery, betting and gambling are the same as games of skill,” the court said.

Chavundaraya to be staged at Ranga Shankara tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chavundaraya, a historical play by Jairam Raipura and directed by Hulugappa Kattimani, will be staged on Wednesday at Ranga Shankara. The play revolves around the life of Chavundaraya, who was the army commander, minister and a loyalist of the Western Ganga dynasty of Talakad in the 10th century, and who was best known for commissioning the construction of the monolithic statue of Bahubali, the Gomateshwara, at Shravanabelagola.

The place in Hassan district attracts tourists and pilgrims from across India. Chavundaraya was also a Kannada prose writer and poet.

The play at Ranga Shankara at J.P. Nagar begins at 7.30 p.m.

Office of the Regional Transport Officer, Hassan District, Hassan

Dt.09.05.2023

PROCLAMATION FOR PUBLIC AUCTIONING OF SEIZED MOTOR VEHICLES

Informing the publics that the following 13 vehicles were seized/detained by Senior/Motor Vehicles Inspector for non –payment of motor vehicle tax due to the State Government seized for non production of releant documents and hence, issued check report to the driver/owner of the said vehicles. This office also sent letters to the registered owner or legal possessor or financier of the vehicle accordingly for payment of tax and production of legal documents. However the owner or legal possessor or financier of the said vehicles not approached for the release of their vehicles after the payment of tax due to the government. Hence, the taxation authority decided to dispose the following vehicles through public auction on 05.6.2023 at 11.00 am at the premises of RTO Hassan., under the provisions of section 11(A) (2) of Karnataka motor vhiecle Taxation Act 1957 and rule 27B of Karnataka Motor vehicle Taxation Rules 1957 for the recovery of arrears of tax. Hence, the owner/legal possessor or financier are hereby informed that, before initiating the auction process, they are eligible to get back the vehicle after production of necessary documents and payment of tax, and compounding fee otherwise will proceed for auctioning vehicle. There afterwards this Authority has not liable for any legal complications which may arise in future and the owner or legal possessor or the financier shall be solely responsible for their action to get there vehicle released. LIST OF DETAILS OF MOTORS VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED

Sl.No.	Vehicle No.	Class of vehicle/Model	Date of Regn.	Place where present Vehicle is parked
1	KA53A1079	Tata indica L/T	14.01.2011	RTO HASSAN
2	KA01AC0600	Force Travellers M/cab	15.2.2003	RTO HASSAN
3	KA04B8464	Tata indica L/T	25.1.2007	RTO HASSAN
4	KA41C3205	Mahindra Xyla M/cab	03.4.2018	RTO HASSAN
5	KA02B9232	Toyota Qualis M/cab	11.12.2003	RTO HASSAN
6	KA13A4427	Tata sumo victa M/cab	24.7.2008	RTO HASSAN
7	KA05A5228	Tata motors Car EIB	19.6.1998	RTO HASSAN
8	KA13A7962	Tata Ace Magic M/cab	23.2.2011	RTO HASSAN
9	KA13A2596	Tata sumo victa M/cab	29.5.2007	RTO HASSAN
10	KA06A3916	Bajaj Maxima M/cab	4.11.2003	Rural Police Station C R Patna
11	KA13B1281	Ace Magic M/cab	31.10.2012	RTO HASSAN
12	KA13/7841	Bajaj Auto M/cab	04.11.2003	Rural Police Station Holenarsipura
13	KA06B2820	Force Trax Toofan M/cab	16.7.2007	Javagal Police Station

CONDITIONS APLLICABLE FOR THE BIDDERS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE AUCTION PROCESS. 1.Every Bidder interested to participate in the auction process shall pay either in cash or in the form of demand draft (demand draft shall be drawn in favour of RTO Hassan) of Rs.10,000=00 as security deposit on or before at 3.00 PM on 03.6.2023 at the office of the RTO. Hassan) Thereafter no security deposit will be accepted. The bidder shall produce his/here address proof. Pan card and identity card , bank account details before the Auctioning Authority. 2.The security deposit amount will be returned on the same day or next working day those bidders who are not succeeded to get the final bid in their name. 3.The highest bidder for whom the final bidding is awarded shall pay 25% of the bid amount on the spot either in cash or in the form of demand draft(demand draft shall be drawn in the favour of RTO Hassan) and shall pay the remaining bidding amount within 07 days otherwise the bid awarded to him/her will be cancelled and the amount paid will be forfeited. The bidder shall be responsible to take the possession of the vehicle immediately after the full payment of bid amont. 4.Tje applicable motor vehicle tax and GST if any shall be payble by the bidder at the time of taking possession of the vehicle. 5.This authority has every right to stop or postpone or cancel the auction process without giving any reasons. 6.The seized vehicle will be auctioned in “As it is and where it is” conditions. 7. The bider shall be payable all applicable fees and 3rd party insurance while transferring the vehicle in their name. 8.The decision of the auctioning authority is final. 9. The bidders wil be given an opportunity to inspect the seized vehicle at the place of detention during the office working hours.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/06/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/007/2023–24 **Sd/-Regional Transport Officer, Hassan**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. T HarishKumar S/o Late Sri L Thammaiah** Presently residing at 156/1, 10th Cross, 2nd Main, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, 1st Block East, Bangalore 560011 and his father Late. Sri L Thammaiah had executed a Registered Development General Power of Attorney vide document No. MYN-4-00397-2010-11 registered in the office of the Sub-registrar Mysuru North, stored in CD No. MYND244 dated 03.08.2010 appointing **M/s. Sky Top Builders Pvt. Ltd.,** No. 175, 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru 560009. represented by Sri. T K Sudhindra, the same has been cancelled by legal notice dated 08.05.2023. Hence general public is hereby issued this public notice not to enter any sort of transaction in respect of schedule property with above said M/s Sky Top Builders Pvt. Ltd., represented by Sri. T K Sudhindra or anybody else, despite of this notice, if any person enters any transaction the same will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All the part and parcel of the land bearing **Sy. No. 339, (Old No. 60/41)** measuring 3 acres 33 guntas, situated at **Kergalli Village, Jayapura Hobli, Mysuru Taluk,** bounded by:
East : Land of Muddaramu bearing Sy No. 60.
West : Land bearing Sy. No. 60.
North : Land bearing Sy. No. 60.
South : Land of Rama Bhovi bearing Sy. No. 340.

P. Mahesha, Advocate,
No.1, Room No. 109, 1st Floor,
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Bengaluru 560009. M : +919448404138

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(Department of Road Transport and Highways)

No.LAQ/NH-275/Mani-Mysore-Bangalore sec/CR – 06/2022-23 **Dated: 15-05-2023**

NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, Dated 9th March, 2023

S O 1095(E) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH-73 in the stretch of land from Km.0.00to Km.71.00 (Mani - Mysore - Bangalore Section) in the district of DAKSHINA KANNADA in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, **The Special land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, National Highways, N.H.73 and 275 (Mani - Mysore - Bangalore Section) Vittal Arcade, (First Floor), KottaraChowki (Near Canara Bank) Ashoknagar Post, Mangalore-575006** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

Note: - The land proposed for acquisition should not be alienated or develop the land.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 0.00 to Km. 71.00 (Mani - Mysore - Bangalore Section) of National Highways 275 in the State of KARNATAKA.

STATE: KARNATAKA				DISTRICT: DAKSHINA KANNADA	
Sl. No	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk :Puttur				Village : Ariyadka	
1	195/3	Private	Garden	180.0000000 (Square Meter)	0.0180000
2	195/4	Private	Dry	247.5000000 (Square Meter)	0.0247500
Village: Aryapu					
1	77/2B	Private	Wet	236.2500000 (Square Meter)	0.0236250
2	77/4A	Private	Garden	798.7500000 (Square Meter)	0.0798750
3	77/4B	Private	Garden	337.5000000 (Square Meter)	0.0337500
4	77/9B	Private	Dry	360.0000000 (Square Meter)	0.0360000
Village: Volamogru					
1	45/4	Private	Wet	445.1700000 (Square Meter)	0.0445170
2	45/5	Private	Wet	283.2900000 (Square Meter)	0.0283290
3	45/6	Private	Wet	202.3500000 (Square Meter)	0.0202350
4	68/1A1	Private	Dry	404.7000000 (Square Meter)	0.0404700
5	68/1A2	Private	Dry	135.0000000 (Square Meter)	0.0135000
6	68/1A3	Private	Dry	1,237.5000000(Square Meter)	0.1237500
7	69/1	Private	Wet	382.5000000(Square Meter)	0.0382500
8	69/2	Private	Wet	11.2500000(Square Meter)	0.0011250
9	69/3	Private	Wet	247.5000000(Square Meter)	0.0247500
10	69/4	Private	Wet	281.2500000(Square Meter)	0.0281250
11	69/5	Private	Wet	45.0000000(Square Meter)	0.0045000
12	69/6	Private	Wet	56.2500000(Square Meter)	0.0056250
Taluk: Sullia				Village:Sampaje	
1	130/1	Private	Dry	360.0000000 (Square Meter)	0.0360000
2	131/1A1A1A1	Private	Dry	45.0000000 (Square Meter)	0.0045000
3	44/1B1	Private	Dry	1,125.0000000 (Square Meter)	0.1125000
Village:Sullia					
1	122/1A	Private	Wet	22.5000000 (Square Meter)	0.0022500
2	122/5	Private	Dry/NAK	22.5000000 (Square Meter)	0.0022500
3	122/8	Private	Wet	22.5000000 (Square Meter)	0.0022500
TOTAL				7,489.2600	0.7489

[F. No.RW/NH-12037/11/2021-22KNT/Zone-III-1/3A]

ABHAY JAIN D.SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that our client intends to purchase immovable residentially converted properties bearing Survey No.28 measuring 28 Guntas, Survey No. 29 measuring 25 Guntas, Survey No.30 measuring 22 Guntas and Survey No.31/1 measuring 23 Guntas from **K.R.Naveen son of Late Ramanjinappa and Abhilash Venkatesh son of Venkatesh,** all situated at Chikkasagarahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as **“Schedule Properties”.**

Any person having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Properties or having any objection to the sale must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be deemed that no person has any objection to our client purchasing the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

The following properties all situated at Chikkasagarahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Extent		Boundaries			
		Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1.	28	00	28	Survey No. 27	Survey No. 29	Survey No. 30	Halla
2.	29	00	25	Survey No. 28	Survey No. 30	Survey No. 30	Halla
3.	30	00	22	Survey No. 27 and 29	Survey No. 31	Survey No. 26 and 31	Halla and Survey No. 29
4.	31/1	00	23	Survey No. 26	Halla	Survey No. 32 and 31/2	Survey No. 30

Mr. Abhijit Atur
Advocate
M/s Agraa Legal
Advocates and Consultants
Address: 2nd Floor, Shivashankar Plaza, 19,
Lal Bagh Road, Richmond Circle, Bangalore – 560027
Ph: 080-41680004 • E-mail ID: admin@agraalegal.com

Place: Bangalore
Date: 16.05.2023

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

No.: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/23-24/647-50 Date: 15.05.2023

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tenders for the following works coming under Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad.

1). Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/23-24/Shift Duties/01 Dated: 14.05.2023.** Tender for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110/11kV Sub-station TAVARAGERA.**

2). Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/23-24/Shift Duties/02 Dated: 14.05.2023.** Tender for Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV Sub-station Valaballari**.

3). Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/23-24/Shift Duties/03 Dated:14.05.2023.** Tender for Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV Sub-station Hiresindhogi**.

4). Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/23-24/Shift Duties/04 Dated:14.05.2023.**Tender for Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV Sub-station Talakal.**

5). Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr. (W&M) C/MRB/23-24/Shift Duties/05 Dated: 14.05.2023.** Tender for Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV Sub-station KIADB Kudathini**.

Tenders will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **“e-Procurement-KPTCL”** or directly logging on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **17.05.2023 at 11:00Hrs** details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad - 583 233.
Phone No.: **08539-270094.**

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ವಿಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ–4/ಡಾ॥ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ.ಎಲ್/87/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2023

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಲಹಂಕ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಜಾರಕ್ ಬಂಡೆ ಕಾವಲ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 60 ರಿಂದ 65 ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 100ರ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಡಾ॥ ಶಿವರಾಮಕಾರಂತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಕರಾರು ಅರ್ಜಿ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: (1) ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಯುಡಿಡಿ/553/ಎಂಎನ್ಎಕ್ಸ್/2018, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.10.2016 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.11.2018. (2) ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅರ್ಜಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.09.2021, 14.12.2021, 24.12.2021, 13.05.2022 ಮತ್ತು 20.09.2022, 15.10.2022, 18.11.2022, 29.11.2022. (3) ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ನೋಟೀಸ್: 12.11.2021, 07.10.2022, 12.10.2022, 31.10.2022.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಮತ್ತು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವಂತೆ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ (3) ರಂತೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಿದಾಗ್ಯೂ ನೀವು ಸದರಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಮಠಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದೆ ಎನ್ನಲಾದ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಬಾಬ್ತು ಭೂನ್ಯಾಯ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಹಾಲಿ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಖಾತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಭವ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರು ಭೂ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಕ್ಲೈಮ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿ ಖಾತೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಗೆ 12(2) ನೋಟೀಸು ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಮಠದ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಭೂನ್ಯಾಯ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಭೂದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಪತ್ರ ತಲುಪಿದ 2 ವಾರದೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯ ಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಭೂದಾಖಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಖಾತೆದಾರರಿಗೆ/ಅನುಭವದಾರರಿಗೆ ಐತೀರ್ಪಿನನ್ವಯ ಭೂ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಗೆ:

(1) ಪೀಠಾಧಿಪತಿಗಳು, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಮಠ, ಹಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ–577416.

(2) ಶ್ರೀ ವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಮುನಿಗಂಗಪ್ಪ, ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಮಠ, ನಂ.ಬಿ–1–301, ಮಾತೃಶ್ರೀ ರೆಸಿಡೆನ್ಸಿ, ತಿಂಡ್ಲು ಗ್ರಾಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರಣ್ಯಪುರ ಪೋಸ್ಟ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560097.

(3) ಶಶಿಕುಮಾರ್, ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಮಠ, D-4, B-3 CHH-34, ಮಾರುತಿ ನಿಲಯ, 2ನೇ ತಿರುವು ಚೆನ್ನಪ್ಪ ಲೇಔಟ್, ನವಳಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ.

(4) ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಶ್ವಾರಾಧ್ಯ ಶಿವಾಚಾರ್ಯ ಸ್ವಾಮಿಜಿ ಹಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಮಠ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ.

(5) ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪಾಪರೆಡ್ಡಿ (ಜಿ.ಪಿಎ ಹೊಲ್ಡರ್), ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಮಠ, ನಂ. 24, 10ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಿ.ಕೆ.ನಗರ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

(6) ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್ ವಕೀಲರು, ನಂ.527, 28ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ಕಿರ್ಲೋಸ್ಕರ್ ಲೇಔಟ್ ಹೇಸರಘಟ್ಟ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 560073.

ಸಹಿ/–ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು–4,
ಡಾ॥ ಕೆ.ಶಿವರಾಮಕಾರಂತ ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

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E-Tenders are invited for the following works

Sl.No	Name of Tender
1	Supply Installation Commissioning and Validation of Steam Condensate Recovery System [Tender ID: 2023_ksdp_575819_1]
2	Supply and Installation of Aids and Accessories Furniture [Tender ID: 2023_ksdp_575729_1]

For more details, please visit the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Details/Corrigendum/Modifications/Retenders etc will be published in the website only.
Sd/- Managing Director

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BANGALORE Basha Aslam Khan S/O Mehaboob Khan born on 10/04/1967 residing at No.54, 1st Cross, Wajid Layout, Thanisandra, Shivaram Karanth Nagar, Bangalore–560077, have changed my name to Aslam Khan vide affidavit dated 04/05/2023 at Bangalore

I, SAMUEL Abraham E f, S/o Feroz Ebrahim, R/O. at–03,Ittina neela, Ect city, Glass fctry lyt, Anekal taluk, phase–2,Blr–100, have changed my name as Samuel Ebrahim, vide affidavit dated 03/05/2023

I, JEEVAN Shankar B S/o Mohammed Nayaz, R/o Maralavadi Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Thokasandra, Guttalahunase , Ramanagar, Karnataka–562121 Have Changed My Religion From Hindu to Islam Wef–14/2/2020 Also Changed My Name to Abu Bakar Siddiq

I Prasanna Kumar S/o Subramanya Rao Padubidri, residing at 64/2 Ground Floor, Honge Avenue, 8 Th Cross, Borewell Road , Dodsworth Enclve, Nallurahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560066, have changed the name of minor Son Aarav P aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as Aarav Krishna .

I, AMREEN.A, D/o Ajaz Ahmed, R/a No.1/1-1, 1st Cross, Gowthamapuram, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560008 have changed my name to Shifa Amreen vide affidavit dt: 13.05.2023 sworn before Notary P.G.Unnikrishnan, B'lore

I, SADHNA Awasthi M/o Vaibhav Awasthi R/o #35/4, Nishalamma Nilaya, Kempapura, Yemaluru Road, Bengaluru-560037 have changed by name from Sadhna Awasthi to Sadhana Awasthi vide affidavit dated 12-05-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, P KALAGOPAN mother of Service No.714887R, Rank: CPL, Name: Gokul GK, Resident of Thiruvonam, Thamarakkudi Post, Mylom, Kollam, Kerala-691560 have changed by name from P Kalagopan to Kala P vide affidavit dated 13-05-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, NARENDRAN Murali R/at No.101, Kumar Ashraya, 9th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar III Block, Bangalore-560011 have changed my name from Narendran Murali to Naveen Narayan Naren.M vide affidavit dated 12-05-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M. N, Bangalore.

I, DRUVI Mahaveer Jain, R/at No.29, 1st C Cross, Remco Layout, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040 have changed my name from Druvi Mahaveer Jain to Druvi Jain vide affidavit dated 12-05-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M. N, Bangalore.

I, MELBA Fionna, R/o # 1, 1st Cross, Appaiah Garden, 2nd Stage Jogupalaya, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560008 have changed by name from Melba Fionna to Gilbert Philip Melba Fionna vide affidavit dated 12-05-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHAVENDRA YERMALLI R/at 9, Bidar have changed my name from RAGHAVENDRA to RAGHAVENDRA YERMALLI for all future purposes by affidavit dated 12–05–2023, Notary Seshagiri.

I, KUNAL Chaudhary, S/o Devender singh Chaudhry, R/O. at–No–1922, Prestige Kew Gardens, Yemalur Mn rd,Bellandur,Blr–37, have changed my name as Kunal Chaudhry, vide affidavit dated 06/05/2023

Govt. gears up to select new State police chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Senior IPS officers Alok Mohan and Kamal Pant are strong contenders

Senior IPS officers Alok Mohan and Kamal Pant are strong contenders for the post of State police chief after the present Director General and Inspector General of Police Praveen Sood will vacate the post to take over as CBI director by May 25.

Going by the seniority list, Mr. Mohan, DGP (Director General of Police) and commandant general home guards, Director Civil defence, Director General of fire and emergency services and State Disaster Management control, tops the list. Mr. Pant, DGP (Recruitment), who served as city police commissioner, is the other contender. Others in the race include Bengaluru city police commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy, who was recently promoted as DGP in January this year.

Even though P. Ravindranath, DGP (training), is eligible for the post, he will not be considered as his tenure of service is lesser than six months.

The appointment of Mr. Sood to the top CBI post coincided with the Congress victory leading to many speculations.

As an officer who held many important positions during his career, Mr. Sood had face-offs with Congress leaders many times.

Even though he has seven months more for retirement, he could have had a tough time if he continued as State police chief with the Congress government, sources said.

Now that he has been selected as the CBI director, he will get an additional one-and-a-half years of tenure as per the rules.

170 SJIM students awarded PG diploma in management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz S.J., Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province, awarded students the PGDM certificates

St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) celebrated its 26th convocation day recently, with 170 students awarded the post-graduate diplomas in Management.

Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz S.J., Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province and Chairman of SJIM's Governing Council, awarded students their PGDM certificates.

Romal Shetty, CEO of Deloitte South Asia, delivered the convocation address and advised students to engage in lifelong skill development, to make oneself invaluable to the organisation and to make a difference to society through their profession.

SJIM Director Manoj D'Souza S.J. pointed out in his annual report that this year SJIM has been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

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No.CBICTITL/CFO/FIN/149/2023-24 **Date: 15.05.2023**

PAPER PUBLICATION

This is to inform that CBIC-Tumakuru Industrial Township Ltd (CBIC-TITL), intends to invest its Surplus Funds in the short term deposits with Nationalized Banks. The details of the quantum of amount and period to be kept in short term deposits are as under:

Sl.No.	Amount	Period
1	Rs. 250.00 Crores	For 1 Year (365 days)
2	Rs. 250.00 Crores	For 6 Months (181 days)

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Schedule of Various Events For e-Auction is as below :

Sl.No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Date of E-Auction Bid Document can be Downloaded until:	**22.05.2023** on or before **14.00** Hrs
2	Last Date to upload the Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal:	**22.05.2023** on or before **15.00** Hrs
3	Date and time of opening:	**24.05.2023** after **11.30** Hrs
4	Live Bidding:	**25.05.2023** Commences at **14.00** Hrs & Concludes at **16.00** Hrs

Sd/-
Chief Financial Officer, CBIC-TITL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/042/Zen/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 172 GRC 2022 **Date:29.03.2023**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Superintendent of Police Economic Offences, CID Bangalore and Police Inspector CT & R Division CID, Bengaluru after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Competent Authority, Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the immovable properties believed to belong Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches movable and immovable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishments, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishments is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid Immovable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Ramesh Sanga)
Under Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Special Cell)

Annexure-1

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.	ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿವರ (ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ)	ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾಲಿಕ	ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ	ಷರಾ
1	ಹೊಯ್ಸಳ ವಿಜಯ ಎಕ್ಲೇವ್–II ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ನಂ.206, ಪಿ.ಐ.ಡಿ ನಂ.100–260–29 / 1–2/19 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ – 2,145 ಚದರಡಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.29/1–2, 60 ಅಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಭೂಪಸಂದ್ರ ನ್ಯೂ ಎಕ್ಟೆನ್ಷನ್, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಹಳೆ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.100, ಹೊಸ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 19, ಸಂಜಯನಗರ ಪೋಸ್ಟ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ಒಟ್ಟು ಅವಿಭಜಿತ ಪಾಲು: 675 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : 60 ಅಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ : ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ನಂ. 29/1–1	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ. ಸಂದ್ಯಾ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಶ್ರೀ ವಸಿಷ್ಟ ಪತ್ತಿನ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ. ನಂ.54, ನೇಸರ 3ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವೈಯಾಲಿಕಾವಲ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 003.	ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಗಾಂಧಿನಗರ (ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸೇಲ್ ಡೀಡ್ ನಂ. 2865/2018–19 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.01.2019	ರೂ. 1,50,56,000/– (ಒಂದು ಕೋಟಿ ಐವತ್ತೈದು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಐವತ್ತಾರು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ)	–	ಸಂದ್ಯಾ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್ ಇವರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.01.2019 ರಂದು ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದ ಮೂಲಕ ಡಾ॥ ಜಿ.ವಿ ಅಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್ ಬಿ.702 ಸಾಲರಪುರಿಯ ಐರೀಸ್ ನಂ.62/3, 8ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 055 ರವರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ನಂ.206, ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ – 2,145 ಚದರಡಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿಯವರಿಗೆ 675 ಚದರಡಿ ಅವಿಭಜಿತ ಪಾಲು ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
2	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬಸವನಗುಡಿ ವಲಯ ಗವಿಪುರಂ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಅಲ್ಲಮ ಪ್ರಭು ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಂ.184 ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.BMP/REV/2004–05/KE/12883, ಹಳೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 9/10:193, ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ:– ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 60 ಚದರಡಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 40 ಚದರಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: 2400 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ರಾಮಣ್ಣ ಮನೆ ನಂ.8, ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ : ಅಪ್ಪು ಮನೆ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ.	ಕೆ.ಸಿ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್, ಬಿನ್ ಕೆ. ಚಿದಂಬರಯ್ಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಶ್ರೀರಾಮಾಂಜನೇಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹನುಮಂತನಗರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 050	ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬಸವನಗುಡಿ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 4981/2004–05 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.12.2004	15,84,000/–	28,23,000/– AS per EC	–
3	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಉತ್ತರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ತುರಹಳ್ಳಿ , ಭಾರತ್ ಹೌಸಿಂಗ ಕೋ–ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಲೇಜ್ಔಟ್. ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.767, ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.350 ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ:– ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 60 ಅಡಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 80.0 + 42.0/2 ಅಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: 3660.00 ಚದರಡಿ, ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.347, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.349, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ.	ಶ್ರೀ ಸದ್ಗುರು ಸೇವಾ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ (ರಿ) ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಮಾತ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂದಿರ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ ಕಾಲೋನಿ ಸೀತಾ ಸರ್ಕಲ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 050 ಕೆ.ಸಿ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು ನಂ.1, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಂಜನೇಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹನುಮಂತನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬಸವನಗುಡಿ (ಬನಶಂಕರಿ) ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದಾನ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 6470/2008–09 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.03.2009	–	–	ದಾನ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಅವಧಿ ಅಂದರೆ2008–2009ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ ರೂ. 36,24,000/– ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
4	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಉತ್ತರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ತುರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.765, ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.348 ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ:– ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 60 ಅಡಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 33.0 + 77.0/2 ಅಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: 3300.00 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.343, 345 & 346, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ, ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ :ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.349	ಶ್ರೀ ಸದ್ಗುರು ಸೇವಾ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ (ರಿ) ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಮಾತ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂದಿರ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಸೀತಾ ಸರ್ಕಲ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 050 ಕೆ.ಸಿ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು ನಂ.1, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಂಜನೇಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹನುಮಂತನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬಸವನಗುಡಿ (ಬನಶಂಕರಿ) ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದಾನ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 6467/2008–09 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.03.2009	–	–	ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಕೋ–ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಮಾನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಾನ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಅವಧಿ ಅಂದರೆ2008–2009ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ ರೂ.29,70,000/– ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
5	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಉತ್ತರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ತುರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.766, ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.349 ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ:– ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 60 ಅಡಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 40 ಅಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: 2400.00 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.346, 347, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ, ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.348, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.350	ಶ್ರೀ ಸದ್ಗುರು ಸೇವಾ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ (ರಿ) ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಮಾತ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂದಿರ,ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಸೀತಾ ಸರ್ಕಲ್,ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 050 ಕೆ.ಸಿ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು ನಂ.1, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಂಜನೇಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹನುಮಂತನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬಸವನಗುಡಿ(ಬನಶಂಕರಿ) ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದಾನ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 6469/2008–09 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.03.2009	–	–	ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಕೋ–ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಮಾನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಾನ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಅವಧಿ ಅಂದರೆ2008–2009ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ ರೂ. 21,60,000/– ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
6	ಹೊಸ ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ನಂ.40, ಹಳೆಯ ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ನಂ.202, ಪಿ.ಐ.ಡಿ ನಂ.16–40–40, ಹೊಸ ಪಿ.ಐ.ಡಿ ನಂ. 075–ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ0212–6, 3ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಗರ ಲಗ್ಗೆರೆ ವಿಲೇಜ್ ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 079, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ನಂ.16, ಕಮಲಾನಗರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 40 ಅಡಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 45 ಅಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು : 1800 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ :ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ.	ಶ್ರೀ. ಮೈಸೂರು ಕುಮಾರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಎ. ಸರ್ವಮಂಗಳ	ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. ಆರ್.ಜೆ.ಎನ್ 1–03465–2013–14 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.09.2013	75,00,000/–	–	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.09.2013 ರಂದು ರೂ.40,00,000/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಲವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆದು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ 30,83,814/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಅಸಲು ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
7	ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.18, ಹಳೆ ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.171/ಬಿ ಪತ್ರ ನಂ.172/1–ಬಿ, ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.172/1 ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.200/1/234/172/1ಎ/18, ಹಳೆಯ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ನಂ.37, ಅಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಕಗ್ಗದಾಸಪುರ ವಿಲೇಜ್, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರಂ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪೂರ್ವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 40 ಅಡಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 70 ಅಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು : 2800 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.19 ಮತ್ತು 20, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.17, ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ :ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು.	ಶ್ರೀ ಪುರುಷೋತ್ತಮ ರಾಜು (ತೇಜಶ್ರೀ ಬಿಲ್ಡರ್ಸ್)	ಹಿರಿಯ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರ (ಇಂದಿರಾ ನಗರ) ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ General Power of Attorney ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. ಐಎನ್ಆರ್–4–00695–2012–13 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.11.2012	–	–	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.08.2013 ರಂದು ರೂ.30,05,000/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಲವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆದು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ರೂ.2000/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನೂಳಿದ ಅಸಲು ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
8	ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.1630/ಎ, (ಬಿಡಿಎ ಸೈಟ್) 17ನೇ ಬಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸಾರಕ್ಕಿ, 2ನೇ ಹಂತ ಜೆ.ಪಿ.ನಗರ ಎಕ್ಟೆನ್ಷನ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು –560 078 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 31.45 ಮೀಟರ್ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 11.40 ಮೀಟರ್ ಒಟ್ಟು : 3858 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.1635/ಎ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.1629, 1628 & 1627 ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.1630, 1631 & 1632	ಮೆ॥ ಜ್ಞಾನಜ್ಯೋತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ	ಬಿಎನ್ಜಿ(ಯು)–ಕೆಎನ್ಜಿಆರ್ /6526/1999–2000	19,29,000/–	–	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.03.2005 ರಂದು ರೂ. 47,00,000/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಲವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆದು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ರೂ. 10,30,486/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಅಸಲು ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
9	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.437, ನಂ.570, ಹೊಸ ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ನಂ.10, ಸಜ್ಜನರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಪುರಂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 004 (ಪ್ರಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಡಿ) ಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ: ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 30 ಅಡಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 60 ಅಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1800 ಚದರಡಿ ಚೆಕ್ಕುಬಂಧಿ:– ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ : ಬುಗಲ್ ಮಠ ರಸ್ತೆ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ : ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಬಿ ಅಂಡ್ ಸಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ : ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ನಂ. 571 ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ : ಸೈಟ್ ನಂ.569	ಕೆ.ಎನ್.ಶಂಕರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರರು	ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ಎಫ್ 844 90–95, ನಂ.1767 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.07.2000	36,00,000/–	13,68,00,000/–	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.02.2020 ರಂದು 21,00,00,000/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಲವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

DIPR/CP/033/2023-24

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sanga)
Under Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Special Cell)

Focus shifts to Delhi, while DKS and Siddaramaiah supporters keep the pot boiling in Bengaluru

Siddaramaiah is already in the national capital, and Shivakumar has deferred his trip citing 'health reasons'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid hectic lobbying for the Chief Minister's post between KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, focus has now shifted to Delhi. While the latter is already in the national capital, the former has deferred his trip citing "health reasons".

At the same time, several newly-elected MLAs have also rushed to Delhi to lobby for ministerial berths in the new government.

The Central leadership of the Congress is expected to take a decision on the chief ministerial face after intensive consultations and one-on-one interaction with Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaiah, sources in the party said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah reached Delhi on Monday evening along with his loyalists such as K.J. George, M.B. Patil, Zameer Ahmed, Ashok Pattan, and Byrathi Suresh. Other MLAs H.K. Patil, Sharan Prakash Patil, and K.H. Muniyappa, and MLC B.K. Hariprasad too rushed to the national capital. Though Mr. Shivakumar was expected to go Delhi on Monday evening, his trip had been cancelled "following health issues", sources said.

Supporters gather around Congress leader Siddaramaiah's car as he leaves for Delhi from his residence in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

On Monday evening, Mr. Shivakumar held a press conference and laid claim for the top job by taking credit for the victory of the party and the 135 seats won by it.

Pressure from seers

The supporters of both kept the leadership buzz alive in Bengaluru with statements and counter-statements.

Several seers, especially of the Vokkaliga community to which Mr. Shivakumar belongs, came out openly in support of him for the top post. Different community leaders and seers, especially from Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, started putting pressure on the Congress for more berths to their community/caste MLAs in the 34-member Cabinet. Wakf Board chairman Shafi Sadi demanded that the post of Deputy Chief Minister be given to one of the MLAs belonging to the Muslim community.

Reasons for claims

While Mr. Shivakumar seems to have blessings of the party high command for his organisational skills and emphatic victory in the polls, Mr. Siddaramaiah claims that he has support of a majority of legislators. Mr. Siddaramaiah has previous administrative experience as the Chief Minister and Mr. Shivakumar has earned the name of being the party's trouble-shooter, sources said.

Speaking about the process of selection, senior party leader B.K. Hariprasad said the MLAs were asked for their open feedback on their choice of Chief Minister during their interaction with the three observers and a secret ballot was held. The observers have taken the ballot boxes to Delhi for counting of votes.

People of State have given a gift of 135 seats, says Shivakumar on his birthday

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar celebrating his birthday with party leaders in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a massive victory in the elections to the Legislative Assembly, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, who is aspiring to become the Chief Minister, celebrated his birthday on Monday.

"The party numbers (135 seats) is my birthday gift," said Mr. Shivakumar, who turned 62. "Despite all harassment by the I-T and ED of the double engine government, people of Karnataka have given a gift of 135 seats in the Assembly. What more do I need?"

Mr. Shivakumar won with a margin of more than one lakh votes in Kanakapura constituency.

In reply to a question, the KPCC president said, "I have rituals at my home, since it is my birthday. I will go to the temple and seek blessings." He added, "Whether the party high command gives a birthday gift or not, I have completed the job I was asked to do. The party observers have sought the opinion of the newly-elected MLAs."

One-line resolution

On Sunday, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) passed a one-line resolution authorising the AICC president to appoint the new leader of the CLP, who will be the Chief Minister.

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is also staking a claim to the post.

Janata Dal (S) introspects on drubbing in Old Mysore region

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Janata Dal (Secular) introspects on its poor show in the Assembly polls, leaders believe that a strong anti-incumbency factor against the BJP government as well as local legislators, resulting in the voters' ire consolidating in favour of the Congress, may have led to the regional party's debacle in the Old Mysore region.

As the party top brass is picking pieces to assess the reason and extent of loss, party sources said that people seem to have voted for stability instead of a hung Assembly and the Congress's five guarantees resonated in a big way with the masses.

"In the party's traditional region, the anti-incumbency wave was against our local legislators," source said.

Despite starting early and a meticulous planning that spanned over a year, the party lost 5% of the vote share, which saw a dip from 18.36% in 2018 to 13.3% in 2023, while the number of seats came down from 37 in 2018 to 19 in 2023.

On local issues

Senior party leader K.A. Thippeswamy also said that the party legislators could also not perform well in many instances. "Legislators were unable to sort out local issues. Since officials were not cooperating, the legislators became ineffective and gathered bad image. In many instances, legislators were not able to sort out simple issues involving land or road," he said.

He said that though budgetary allocations had been made, grants had not been released for development works.

When asked if the BJP's increased vote share was a matter of concern for the party, he said: "Though the BJP has increased its vote share, it is doubtful that it would be retained as it does not have a cadre in the Old Mysuru region."

Those who served as Speaker at different times lost in polls

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The results of the Assembly elections have thrown up many surprises. One of them is the defeat of members of the outgoing 15th Assembly who served as Speakers at different points and in earlier governments.

Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri and three former Speakers, who were members of the outgoing members of the Assembly, were defeated.

Six-time MLA, Mr. Kageri of the BJP suffered defeat at the hands of his rival Bhimanna Naik of the Congress with a margin of 8,172 votes in Sirsi in Uttara Kannada. Veteran Congress leader K.R. Ramesh Kumar, who served as the Speaker during the JD(S)-Congress coalition government and also served as the Speaker in the 1990s, lost to G.K. Venkatashivareddy of the JD(S) by a margin of 10,443 votes in Srinivasapura in Kolar district.

Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri

BJP's K.G. Bopaiah, who served as the Speaker in the BJP government during 2009-13, also lost the poll battle to A.S. Ponnappa of the Congress by a margin of 4,291 votes in Virajpet constituency.

Former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who served as the Speaker during the BJP government led by B.S. Yediyurappa in 2008-09, also lost. Mr. Shettar lost to Mahesh Tenginkai by a margin of 34,289 votes in Hubballi central constituency. Kumara Bangrappa, who used to chair the proceedings of the Assembly, in the absence of Mr. Kageri and after the death of Anand Mamani last year, also tasted defeat in the Sorab constituency against his brother Madhu Bangarappa, by a margin of 44,262 votes.

Minority representation has remained low in most Assemblies

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

The representation of Muslims in the Karnataka Assembly has now marginally increased to nine from seven in the last Assembly. All of them are from the Congress. It was 11 in 2013. The JD(S) said 23 of its 211 candidates were Muslims, but none won. The BJP did not field any Muslims.

The average number of Muslim MLAs has been 8.5 since 1952. The biggest tally was in 1978 when 16 Muslims were elected. One more was elected in the byelection the same year. From 17 in 1978, the number has come down drastically. Earlier, apart from the Congress, candidates from the JD(S) would also get elected, but this time all nine belong to the former.

Political observers feel that lack of representation is affecting the overall development of the community. Khaji Arshed Ali, former MLC and journalist, points out that other communities such as Lingayats, Vokkaligas, and Kurubas who are of a similar proportion of the population, have enjoyed disproportionately higher representation in the State legislature and the Lok Sabha. The author of the 'Karnataka Muslims and Electoral Politics', Mr. Ali lists reasons such as poverty, lack of political awareness, and an aspirational middle class that remains detached from challenges faced by the ordinary Muslim, as some of the reasons for this.

"As per the 2011 Census, there are 12.7% Muslims in Karnataka. If they were represented in proportion to their population, the State Assembly should have had 26-28 Muslim members," he argued.

A survey by the Karnataka Muslim Muttehida Mahaj Voters' Forum revealed that there are 35 seats where the population is above 15%, well beyond the State average. Syed Tanveer Ahmed, political commentator, says: "Of the 35 constituencies with significant Muslim electors, 25 are said to be those with a good chance of returning Muslim candidates to the Assembly. Of these, seven are reserved for the SCs/STs. In these reserved constituencies, the Muslim and Dalit population is sizeable. This is one way Muslims lost some possibility of representation."

Mr. Ahmed also argued that the Muslim voting percentage has consistently been less than the State average. "But this time, it seems that Muslims in many constituencies consolidated and voted for the Congress. But in a few constituencies, Muslim votes split between the Congress and the JD(S). For example, division of Muslim votes led to the BJP winning four of the six seats in Kalyana Karnataka," he said.

'People being divided on religious lines led to my defeat'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

JD(S) leader Ayanur Manjunath, who suffered defeat in Shivamogga constituency, said the people were divided on the lines of religion, and that led to his defeat. "Hindus voted for the BJP, while Muslims favoured the Congress. I tried to bring them together. I will continue to work for peace and harmony in Shivamogga," he said in Shivamogga on Monday.

Despite big victory, Cong. may have to depend on JD(S) in Council for a while

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

With no party having majority in the Legislative Council now, the Congress that is set to form the government after its impressive victory in the Assembly elections will have to depend on its traditional rival Janata Dal (Secular) for passage of Bills.

Congress thumped JD(S) in its bastion, the Vokkaliga dominated districts, reducing the regional party's influence considerably in the closely fought Assembly elections, while the BJP lost majority in the Upper House as five of its members resigned to contest the elections.

Current tally

Currently, in the 75-member Upper House, the Congress has 26 members, BJP has 34 members, and JD(S) eight members, beside an Independent and Chairman Basavaraj Horatti elected to the House on BJP ticket. Meanwhile, the Congress nominated members P.R. Ramesh and Mohan Kondajji are set to retire on Wednesday, while another nominated Congress member C.M. Lingappa will retire on June 8.

Of the five vacant seats caused by the resignations, three will be filled through elections from the Assembly of which the Congress is assured of two seats. The other two vacancies are one each in Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies.

Considering the schedule of future elections to the Council, the Congress will not get majority at least until June 2024 when 11 members elected from the Legislative Council and three members elected from Graduates' constituency retire.

The Congress is also likely to benefit as the nominated BJP MLC A.H. Vishwanath and JD(S) member Marithibbe Gowda have identified themselves with the Congress.

JD(S) member K.A. Thippeswamy indicated that the Congress could receive issue-based support from the regional party. "We may work with the ruling party, especially on issues of reservation, protection of minorities, backward classes and Scheduled Castes." Over the last two years, the strength of JD(S) has also come down from 16 to 8 seats now, as it failed to hold onto its seats in Mysuru, Mandya, Tumakuru, and Kolar districts.

It was only in 2022 that the saffron party had gained majority in the Upper House for the first time, backed by impressive gains it made during the 2021 December elections to the council from the local authorities constituency.

The BJP saw its numbers dwindle after resignations of its members Baburao Chinchansur, Puttanna, R. Shankar, Laxman Savadi, and Ayanur Manjunath to contest the Assembly polls. While only Mr. Savadi, who left BJP and contested on Congress ticket, managed to win, Mr. Puttanna, Mr. Shankar, Mr. Chinchansur, and Mr. Manjunath lost.

Interestingly, Mr. Manjunath was the only member in the Council who had been member of the Legislative Assembly, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha.

In figures

BJP: 34
Congress: 26
Janata Dal (Secular): 8
Independent: 1
Vacant: 5
Chairman: 1

Membership of the Upper House 75

Those who resigned recently

- **Laxman Savadi** (BJP): Won Assembly polls on Congress ticket
- **Ayanur Manjunath** (BJP): Contested on JD(S) ticket but lost the polls
- **Baburao Chinchansur** (BJP): Contested as Congress candidate but lost
- **Puttanna** (BJP): Contested as Congress candidate but lost
- **R. Shankar** (BJP): Contested as NCP candidate but lost

Bommai holds talks on party's poll loss with RSS leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the announcement of the Assembly election results, acting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai held a discussion with the RSS leaders regarding party organisation in Bengaluru on Monday.

Talking to reporters after visiting Keshava Krupa (RSS headquarters), he said the poll results had been discussed with leaders. They had a detailed discussion on how to organise the party in the coming days.

Meeting with MLAs

A decision will be taken after holding several rounds of discussions with the State party president and the high command regarding organising the BJP, he said.

Replying to a question, he said a meeting of the elected MLAs was not convened as it will be held by the State party president.

Addanda Cariappa quits as director of Rangayana

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Theatre person Addanda Cariappa has resigned as director of Rangayana in Mysuru.

In his letter addressed to the Secretary, Department of Kannada and Culture, dated May 14, Mr. Cariappa said he was tendering his resignation in the wake of the defeat of the BJP government, which had appointed him, in the Assembly election. He said he had accepted the people's mandate and resigned owning moral responsibility.

His tenure as director was marked by controversies that included the release of his book on the erstwhile ruler of Mysuru Tipu Sultan titled "Tipu Nijakanasugalu", which was also staged in the form of play. The book was criticised not only for the factual inaccuracies that sought to project Tipu Sultan as a "tyrant", but also for the fictionalised account of the ruler's death. at the hands of Vokkaliga chieftains "Uri Gowda" and "Dodda Nanje Gowda".

Addanda Cariappa

Mr. Cariappa, who had campaigned for the BJP in Kodagu district, where the party ceded both seats to Congress, was also booked by the Srimangala police for allegedly provoking religious hatred during his election speech.

In his letter, Mr. Cariappa claimed to have improved the financial condition of Rangayana, which presently had a deposit of ₹2.09 crore apart from ₹1.57 crore in its savings bank account.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

C S Vijayalakshmi, aged 94 yrs, w/o Late C Srikantan, passed away at her residence 'Mahalakshmi' 965 JLB Rd, Lakshmipuram, Mysuru at 6:15 am on 14th May 2023. She leaves behind 2 sons, 2 daughters and their families. Ph: 9880780046

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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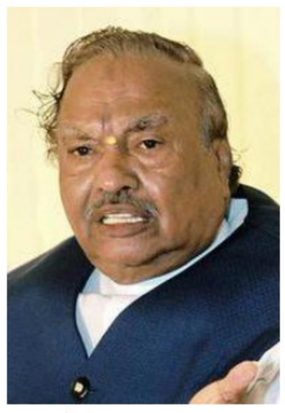

K.S. Eshwarappa

Eshwarappa suspects threat call, seeks probe

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa claimed on Moday to have received a missed call on WhatsApp, believed to be from Kazakhstan, and suspected it to be a threat call.

Mr. Eshwarappa told presspersons in Shivamogga that he received the missed call on his phone around half past midnight. "During the investigation into the threat call to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari earlier, a diary was recovered from an accused. My name was mentioned in the book. Hence, I suspect that the missed call was an attempt to threaten me," he said.

The former Minister submitted a complaint to the Shivamogga Superintendent of Police (SP) seeking a probe.

Mr. Eshwarappa was a Minister in the Basavaraj Bommai Cabinet.

He resigned after a contractor ended his life claiming to have been denied his dues by then Minister.

T.N.'s spurious liquor toll rises to 17; CM orders CB-CID probe, suspends SP

41 other victims are undergoing treatment in Villupuram, Jipmer and at the Puducherry Government General Hospital; police have detained 55 arrack sellers and seized 109 litres of the illicit alcohol

The Hindu Bureau
VILLUPURAM

The toll in the Marakkanam spurious liquor tragedy rose to 12, with the death of three more victims, who were undergoing treatment at the Government Villupuram Medical College and Hospital, on Monday. The deceased were identified as Rajavelu, 38, Vijayan, 55 and Sarath Kumar, 55 of Ekkiyarkuppam.

Official sources said 37 persons were undergoing treatment in Villupuram, three at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (Jipmer) in Puducherry and one at the Puducherry Government General Hospital.

The victims, mostly fishermen from Ekkiyarkuppam, had purchased the brew from Amaran, 25, who has since been arrested. The victims began arriving in hospital in Villupuram and Puducherry on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Police personnel deployed at the Villupuram Medical College and Hospital where the victims have been admitted. S.S. KUMAR

The police detained as many as 55 arrack sellers in raids across Villupuram district on Monday.

Meanwhile, the toll due to consumption of spurious liquor in Maduranthakam, Chengalpattu district, rose to five on Monday, following the death of one more person.

Police said Mariappan, 65, of Perumkaranai village, died at Government Chengalpattu Hospital without responding to treatment. Meanwhile, Raju, 32, of Puthur, and Sankar, 48, of Perumkaranai, who were hospitalised following complications owing to consumption of spurious liquor, escaped from the hospital. The police have launched a search.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the transfer of the probe into the illicit liquor deaths in Marakkanam in Villupuram district and Maduranthakam in Chengalpattu district to the Crime Branch-CID.

The Chief Minister also announced the suspension of Villupuram Superintendent of Police N. Shreenatha, Villupuram Deputy Superintendent of Police (PEW) Palani, and Deputy Superintendent of Police of PEW Chengalpattu. The Superintendent of Police of Chengalpattu A. Pradeep has been transferred.

Speaking to reporters after meeting victims undergoing treatment at the Government Villupuram Medical College and Hospital here, he said the accused involved in both incidents had been arrested.

Preliminary investigations suggest that industrial methanol was used in the preparation of the spurious liquor. Mr. Stalin said the liquor was packed in bottles of TASMAC and sold. The CM announced disbursal of ₹10 lakh each to the next of kin of deceased in both the incidents and ₹50,000 each to those undergoing treatment in hospitals in Villupuram, Puducherry, and Chengalpattu districts. Law enforcement authorities have been directed to nab all those involved in the incidents.

Cong. may try to bring back estranged KC(M)

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Emboldened by its emphatic victory over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Karnataka Assembly election, a perked-up Congress leadership in Kerala appears keen on shepherding alliance partners gone astray back to the United Democratic Front (UDF) fold.

In separate interactions with the media, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran, MP, and senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala mooted welcoming the Jose K. Maniled Kerala Congress(M), currently a staunch Left Democratic Front (LDF) ally, to the UDF.

The Congress might consider the traumatic parting of the ways with the Kerala Congress water under the bridge.

Nevertheless, its bid to woo Kerala Congress (M), back to the UDF seems fated to run aground.

Mani C. Kappan, incumbent Pala legislator and Democratic Congress Kerala leader, a UDF ally, ruled out ceding the constituency to Mr. Mani. Mons Joseph, Kerala Congress(M) MLA, said the UDF was in the dark about the Congress move to accommodate any party in the alliance.

Christian votes

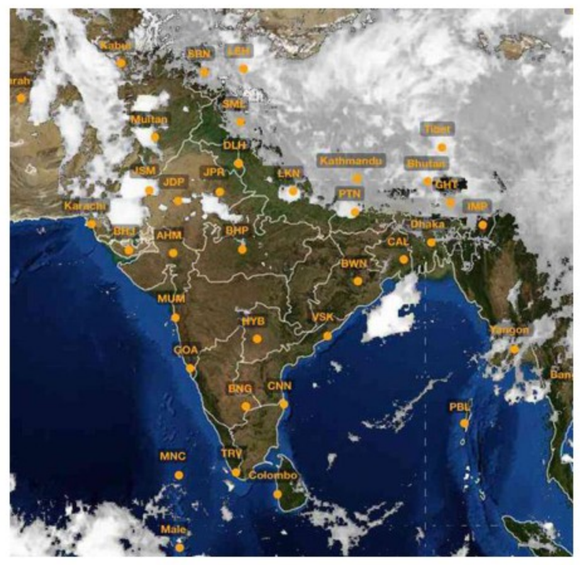
A party insider said the Congress did not expect Mr. Mani to come over to the UDF at the drop of a hat. Instead, the Congress seemed to signal to the Kerala Congress (M)'s powerful Christian vote base in central Kerala that it, not the LDF, was the sole national bulwark against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Moreover, Mr. Sudhakaran pointedly sought to dent the CPI(M)'s anti-Sangh Parivar image by accusing the party of advantaging the BJP in Bagepalli, Kalaburagi, K.R. Puram, and Gulbarga Assembly constituencies in Karnataka to diminish Congress's winning chances.

Water Resources Minister and Kerala Congress (M) leader Roshy Augustine rejected the Congress's overture. He said the Kerala Congress (M) did not quit UDF but was expelled arbitrarily. For now, the party was well ensconced in the LDF, and its loyalty did not fluctuate from hour to hour.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, west Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.8	22.8	Kozhikode	—	37.4	28.5
Ahmedabad	—	41.5	27.8	Kurnool	—	40.4	28.7
Aizawl	6	30.0	16.4	Lucknow	—	39.8	26.6
Allahabad	—	42.8	26.4	Madurai	—	39.6	26.0
Bengaluru	—	33.0	23.0	Mangaluru	—	34.5	26.2
Bhopal	—	42.0	25.0	Mumbai	—	34.3	28.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.4	27.1	Mysuru	—	35.9	21.4
Chandigarh	—	40.9	23.4	New Delhi	—	41.3	25.2
Chennai	—	40.8	30.0	Patna	—	37.4	23.6
Coimbatore	—	36.0	25.4	Port Blair	12	32.4	25.2
Dehradun	—	37.8	20.2	Puducherry	—	39.4	28.8
Gangtok	5	18.6	13.8	Pune	—	37.8	22.3
Goa	—	35.5	26.5	Raipur	—	42.8	27.2
Guwahati	—	33.8	21.6	Ranchi	—	38.2	24.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	22.0	Shillong	—	24.8	12.9
Hyderabad	—	39.8	28.7	Shimla	0.4	25.4	15.8
Imphal	21	28.1	17.5	Srinagar	—	25.6	9.6
Jaipur	5	40.6	21.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	28.8
Kochi	—	32.2	27.4	Tiruchi	—	39.5	28.0
Kohima	—	15.8	—	Vijayawada	—	43.2	26.2
Kolkata	—	37.8	24.8	Visakhapatnam	—	35.6	29.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.28	.49	.41	141	—	
Bengaluru	.26	.11	100	72	85	
Chennai	129	.37	.17	51	44	
Delhi	.12	.57	.25	317	187	
Hyderabad	.57	.50	.70	85	134	
Kolkata	.23	.22	.19	48	92	
Lucknow	.9	.53	.34	249	239	
Mumbai	.56	.1	.52	—	147	
Pune	116	165	115	84	68	
Visakhapatnam	.19	.46	.18	133	152	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 273 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

LJD planning merger with RJD, talks with JD(S) on hold

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The Kerala unit of the Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) is learnt to have put on hold its merger talks with the Janata Dal (S) till May 28.

According to sources in the party, a section of leaders are in favour of a merger with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), one of the major parties in the ruling alliance in Bihar. The sources said that the decision to put on hold the merger talks with the JD(S) followed the former Karnataka CM H.D. Kumaraswamy's statement that his party would form a government in alliance with even BJP if there was a hung verdict in the Assembly polls.

Arikompan attacks ration shop in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

Arikompan, a wild tusker translocated from Chinnakanal to the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) due to its habit of raiding ration shops for raw rice, appears to have reverted to his old habit by attacking a ration shop in Tamil Nadu early Monday morning.

A Tamil Nadu Forest department official said the tusker raided the ration shop around 2 a.m. at Manalar, near Megamalai. The tusker vandalised the window of the shop but left the spot without taking rice.

The tusker also tried to attack the door of a layam (cluster home) at Manalar. Later, the elephant moved to the Kerala forest area early morning and entered the forest camp at Upper Manalar. It then moved to the forest border area in Tamil Nadu, said the official.

A ration shop at Manalar, near Megamalai, in Tamil Nadu that was attacked by Arikompan early on Monday.

The attack on the ration shop by Arikompan has raised an alarm for local residents at Megamalai. They fear that the tusker may return to the ration shop area and try to attack the shop again. Tamil Nadu Forest department officials said they were closely monitoring the movements of the tusker.

"A 30-member Forest department team is still camping at Megamalai and monitoring the movements of the tusker. The ban on the entry of tourists to the Megamalai hill station will continue," said the official.

Chinnakanal panchayat president Sini Baby said that since the translocation of Arikompan from Chinnakanal, issues related to shops and houses being raided by elephants were solved at Chinnakkanal and Santhanpara panchayats in Idukki. "The recent ration shop attack by Arikompan in Tamil Nadu shows that the tusker has reverted to its old habit. Its love for rice will be a threat to people," said Ms. Baby.

Arikompan was captured on April 29 and released to the PTR on April 30 morning. Later, the tusker moved to the Megamalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) area in Tamil Nadu. It has been camping at Megamalai for the past 10 days.

23 buffaloes die after being hit by goods train in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

As many as 23 stray buffaloes died after being hit by a goods train in Angaradundi, near Baikampady, on Sunday night.

In a communique, Southern Railway officials said the cattle were hit by a goods train between Jokatte and Panambur Railway stations at around 11.30 p.m.

Some cattle had fallen near the culvert across the stream, while others had fallen in a gorge.

People in the area, who regularly walk along the railway track to reach Baikampady Industrial area for work, noticed the dead cattle after stench began emanating in the area on Monday morning. The residents, including Democratic Youth Federation of India activists, assembled at the spot and sought clearance of the dead cattle.

One of the 23 buffaloes, which died after being hit by a freight train, being removed by residents of Angaragudi, near Baikampady Industrial Area in Mangaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Mangaluru City Corporation made use of a crane to remove seven cattle that had fallen near the culvert and buried them.

Residents and Democratic Youth Federation of India activists worked till late on Monday evening to manually pull out the dead cattle from the gorge and bury them.

Foxconn breaks ground for $500-million manufacturing facility near Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Electronics manufacturing firm Foxconn broke ground on Monday for a production plant near Hyderabad. Minister K.T. Rama Rao said the company will be investing $500 million in the plant.

A greenfield project, the facility will create 25,000 direct jobs in its first phase itself, he added. Foxconn Interconnect Technology (FIT) chairman and CEO Sidney Lu was also present at the ceremony.

"We signed the MoU on March 2 and in about two-and-a-half months we are here today at the ground-breaking ceremony," he said, promising government support to FIT in realising its dream of getting the plant ready in 9-12 months. The new facility is being set up as part of the company's expansion strategy to diversify its global manufacturing base. The investment will not only benefit FIT's business but also contribute to the overall economic prosperity of the region, FIT and the State government said in a joint statement.

For the future: Minister K.T. Rama Rao, FIT chairman and CEO Sidney Lu and others at the ceremony. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Industries Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said electronic equipment and connectors for various original equipment manufacturers will be manufactured at the plant, which will come up on 200 acres of land.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Lu said the company looked forward to working with the local talent and continuing the fruitful relationship with the government.

The move assumes importance amid Telangana government's emphasis on emerging as the preferred manufacturing destination for electronics as well as electric mobility.

The Kerala Story screening cancelled for fourth day in Bhainsa town in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
NIRMAL

Criticising the move, BJP team submits memorandum to police seeking permission for shows

The screening of the controversial movie *The Kerala Story* was cancelled for the fourth consecutive day in the communally sensitive town of Bhainsa in Telangana's Nirmal district on Monday.

The film was supposed to be screened at Kamala theatre, the only cinema hall in Bhainsa town. However, the theatre management deferred the screening after the local police reportedly denied permission, to prevent any disturbance to public peace, sources said.

The move drew sharp criticism from the local BJP leaders and the cadre of its various frontal organisations. After the sudden cancellation of the first show at the theatre on Friday, activists of Hindu Vahini outfit staged a sit-in.

A delegation of the BJP leaders led by party district president P. Rama Devi submitted a memorandum to the police officials on Monday seeking permission to screen the movie in Bhainsa town. Ms. Devi questioned how the movie, which was being watched in other parts of the country, could not be screened in Bhainsa alone.

Later, sources said that the theatre management had reportedly been given permission to screen the film from Tuesday in two sessions alone – morning and afternoon.

Precautionary steps are in place to prevent any disturbance to peace and harmony, said a police official.

TTD to release online tickets on fixed dates

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The online tickets for various rituals and darshan at the Lord Venkateswara temple will now be released on specific dates every month. The decision by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is meant to avoid uncertainty and confusion regarding the release dates.

Online booking for predawn rituals *Suprabhatam* can be done between 18th and 20th of every month. Online tickets for general Arjitha Sevas will be released on 21st. The online quota of ₹300 special entry darshan tickets will be released on 24th.

Safety, in line of duty

Doctors must be protected while they are working with patients

Medical science is so advanced today, it has extended longevity and enhanced quality of life in ways thought impossible in the past, and yet, life must end in death. For those who lose someone dear to them, there is anger, disbelief and lack of acceptance, and this is sometimes unleashed on the hospital, doctors and nurses. This is why Kerala's move to amend the Kerala Healthcare Service Persons and Healthcare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, to fortify defences against attacks on health-care institutions and workers is not only welcome but is also essential intervention. The death of a young house surgeon, Vandana Das, at the hands of an 'inebriated' patient during a routine medical examination in Kerala has not only shocked the community but has also revived fear among health-care workers about their own safety. Doctors have organised protests across the country, condemning this attack and urging authorities to ensure protection. While this particular incident might have been an outlier in terms of how it occurred, recent history in the country is replete with instances of co-ordinated assaults on health-care workers by irate patients or their attendees disappointed with health outcomes. The warriors in the hospitals, unlike those battling on enemy lines, do not sign up for assault in the line of duty. It is the duty of the state and the community to protect them and ensure they are shielded from assault and abuse, verbal and physical. The Kerala amendment is progressive in that it proposes to bring verbal abuse and violent acts causing simple and grievous hurt under the purview of the Act. Enhanced jail term (up to three years) and a hefty fine (up to ₹50,000) for those found guilty are also being prescribed. The government has proposed time-bound speedy disposal of such cases besides designating one court in each district as a special court to deal with these cases.

Other States need to consider interventions on similar lines too. While the law itself needs to be potent, its implementation should also promote deterrence, driving home the government's commitment toward seriously handling assault on the health-care workforce. Since sagacity is unlikely to prevail in emergency and critical situations, it will be prudent to ensure that some measure of protection, security staff, for instance, is made available at private and public hospitals. It is unfortunate that a young doctor's life was snuffed out even as it had hardly begun, but it is very much in the hands of the States to ensure that no such sacrifices are demanded at the altar of patient care anymore.

Death by methanol

There should be zero tolerance for sale of illicit liquor

The death of 17 persons over the past few days, in two incidents in north Tamil Nadu, after consuming spurious liquor comes a month after the State government informed the Assembly that there has been no hooch tragedy for the last 14 years. As on Monday evening, 12 persons of Villupuram district and five of Chengalpattu district have died, while 50 people have been hospitalised. The development is surprising as Union Ministry of Home Affairs and National Crime Records Bureau data (2016-21) show that illicit or spurious liquor deaths have been largely contained. According to the central authorities, Tamil Nadu reported no deaths during 2016 to 2019; 20 in 2020 and six in 2021. Besides, the State has safeguards to prevent such tragedies. Since 2002, methanol, regarded as the main reason behind hooch tragedies, has been brought under the ambit of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937. Amendments have also been made to the Tamil Nadu Denatured Spirit, Methyl Alcohol and Varnish (French Polish) Rules, 1959, to maintain control over methanol supply. What is disturbing is that the two recent instances point to the apparent use of methanol.

While the government is expected to probe the causative factors, it is obvious that there are administrative lapses. The availability of cheaper brew than what is sold at retail outlets of the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited (Tasmac) is disconcerting. This could have been tackled had law-enforcing authorities, including the police, monitored the movement of methanol. It is no surprise that several police officials have been placed under suspension. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who visited the two districts on Monday, also announced a Crime Branch-CID probe. Apart from announcing a solatium of ₹10 lakh to every family of the deceased and ₹50,000 to each of those undergoing treatment, the Chief Minister has not provided any scope for debate whether the families concerned should get financial assistance. Perhaps, he has gone by the example set by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who announced last month, subsequent to the many deaths in East Champaran district, the payment of ₹4 lakh each to family members of those who had died in hooch incidents since 2016. Till then, Mr. Kumar had held the position against providing any compensation. Such a stand was in vogue once in Tamil Nadu, as administrators were of the view that financial assistance could encourage those on the wrong path. It is time States evolved a uniform and comprehensive policy to counter the problem of spurious or illicit liquor, apart from sending a strong message to the law-enforcement agencies that there would be zero tolerance to illicit liquor.

Delving into the verdict on the Shiv Sena issue

P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha

The most interesting thing about the Supreme Court of India's judgment on the Shiv Sena issue is that both sides think that it is in their favour. The Chief Justice of India has apparently analysed the issues with clarity and reached conclusions with a great amount of ingenuity. However, it eludes ordinary citizens how each party can think that the statement of law contained in the judgment is in its favour. Therefore, it is necessary to analyse the judgment and find out what the top court of the land has actually said on the contentious issues brought up before it.

Floor test was wrong in law

The Maharashtra Governor's action in calling for a floor test has been very severely criticised by the Court, which characterised it as illegal. The judgment says, "In the present case the Governor did not have any objective material before him to indicate that the incumbent government had lost the confidence of the House and that he should call for a floor test. Hence, the exercise of discretion by the governor in this case was not in accordance with Law." The Court has said in so many words that the Governor is a constitutional authority and should not involve himself in any inner- or intra-party disputes. Well, it is logical for the Court to say that the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray as Chief Minister before the floor test has effectively prevented the Court from restoring his Chief Minister-ship and thus doing complete justice in this case. But there is no doubt that the Governor was wrong in law in calling for the floor test.

However, the Constitution Bench does not find anything wrong in the same Governor inviting Eknath Shinde to form an alternative government. It is of course the constitutional responsibility of a Governor to explore the possibility of an alternative government when the incumbent government falls. No one can fault the Governor for doing that exercise. But the action of the Governor in calling for a floor test which has been characterised as illegal by the Court, triggered the resignation of the Chief Minister. The fruit of this 'illegality' was the formation of an alternative government. It is rather naive to believe that the impact of that illegality evaporated the moment Uddhav Thackeray resigned. As it happened, the Governor had Mr. Shinde sworn in as Chief Minister, a member of the same Shiv Sena to which Mr. Thackeray belonged, with great alacrity.

As per the universally accepted convention, in all democratic countries, when a government falls, the constitutional head, Governor or President, enquires of the leader of the Opposition whether he could form a government. The Governor of Maharashtra did not ask the leader of the Opposition in the Assembly whether he was in a position to form a government. Instead, he chose another member of the Shiv Sena, whose government had just resigned, to form the government. This action of the Governor showed that he was a willing party to the ongoing inner-party conflict in the Shiv Sena.

The Court has in unambiguous terms stated that the Governors shall not enter the arena of inner- or intra-party conflicts. But that is what was precisely happening. Therefore, when the Constitution Bench approves the Governor swearing in the Shinde government, it misses out on the continuing impact of the "illegal" act of the Governor in calling for the floor test. The Supreme Court seems to have ignored the immorality of the whole exercise. The judgment lost its moral timbre here.

Validity of whip

Now to the question of disqualification of MLAs who defied the whip; the basic issue is whose whip is valid. As it happened, both the groups issued whips to all the members of the Shiv Sena Party and each group has moved disqualification petitions against the other group. It has been rightly held by the Court that the decision on a disqualification petition should be taken in the first instance by the Speaker. So, the matter of disqualification has been referred back to the Speaker. In this context, the most basic question that should be raised is whose whip is valid. The Supreme Court has stated clearly in the judgment that it is the political party which can appoint the whip as well as the legislative party leader, and not the legislative party. However, the judgment has imported needless confusion by stating that when a split occurs in a party, two factions arise and no single faction is the party.

As a matter of fact, the Tenth Schedule contemplates an original political party and a faction which arose as a result of a split in the original party when paragraph 3 contained the split provision. After the split provision was omitted, the original political party changes only when a merger under paragraph 4 takes place. When the original political party merges with another party, either that party becomes the original political party or a new party formed after such merger. The point is that there is always an original political party, which is the point of reference for the purpose of deciding the question of disqualification.

The Tenth Schedule does not contemplate two rival factions at any time. The explanation to paragraph (2)(1) is very crucial in determining the question. It says, "An elected member of a House shall be deemed to belong to the Political Party, if any, by which he was setup as a candidate for election as such member." This explanation clarifies the party affiliation of a defecting member. According to this explanation, all members of the Shinde faction belong to the original political party, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray. It must be made clear that under the Tenth Schedule, Mr. Thackeray's party is not a faction; it is the original political party. Going by the judgment, it is this party which can issue a valid whip. So, all those members who defied Uddhav Thackeray's whip are liable to be disqualified. It is not clear why the judgment did not deal with the above explanation to paragraph (2)(1). So long as this paragraph is in operation, the Speaker does not have to look for other evidence to decide which party can issue a valid whip. It is the original political party which can issue the whip.

The purpose of the anti-defection law is to punish the defecting legislators and protect political parties from being destabilised. The purpose of paragraph 15 of the symbols order is to decide which faction in a political party is that party in the event of a split. The anti-defection law does not recognise any split. It disqualifies all the members who voluntarily give up the membership of the party or who defy the whip issued by the party. The Speaker is not called upon to decide which faction is the real party. The law settled that question through the paragraph (2)(1) (explanation).

The judgment lacks clarity where it says, "the effect of the deletion of Para 3 is that both factions cannot be considered to constitute the original political party". The Speaker needs to decide the question of defection on the basis of the above paragraph. The Election Commission of India (ECI) may follow its own criteria to decide which faction is the party. The Speaker has to decide which legislator has defected from the original political party on the basis of the Tenth Schedule. The ECI decides it on the basis of tests fashioned by it.

The judgment creates a certain amount of confusion by talking about factions and the need for the Speaker to decide which faction is the real party. The Supreme Court could have decisively stated that it is Uddhav Thackeray's party which is the original political party and that party alone could issue a valid whip. If it had said so, Mumbai would not have been in such a state of confusion as it finds itself in today.

Despite an overall analysis of issues with clarity, the judgment creates some confusion by talking about factions and the need for the Speaker to decide which faction is the real party

A Court recall that impacts the rights of the accused

Preeti Pratishruti Dash

is an Assistant Professor of Law at the National Law School of India University where she teaches criminal law and procedure

The Supreme Court of India's order on May 1, seeking to recall its own decision in *Ritu Chhabaria vs Union of India* upon the insistence of the Solicitor-General of India, Tushar Mehta, that central investigation agencies were 'facing difficulties', has caused concern among legal professionals. Besides the questionable legality of the Court 'recalling' its own decision, what is of concern too is how this order would impact the rights of the accused to be released from custody. On May 12, in its interim order, the Supreme Court clarified that courts could grant default bail independent of and without relying on the Ritu Chhabaria judgment. However, the Court's decision to suspend the rights of defendants in criminal cases would lead to further erosion of the constitutional rights of the accused and deviate from fundamental principles of criminal procedure.

Right to default bail

The right to statutory bail, often known as default bail, is available to accused persons in cases when the investigating agency fails to complete its investigation within the stipulated time. Under Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the maximum time available to investigators is 60 or 90 days, depending on the seriousness of the offence. If the authorities are unable to complete the investigation within this time period, the accused can seek to be released from custody by applying for default bail under the first *proviso* to Section 167(2) of the CrPC. Notably, the 'default' characteristic of this bail comes from the fact that the application is unrelated to the merits of the case, and is designed to prevent long-term detention of the accused.

The right to default bail has been characterised by the Court in multiple judgments as an indefeasible right, flowing from Article 21 of the Constitution which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. Therefore, in cases where the investigating authorities attempted to circumvent this procedure, the Court rightly called out these tactics and refused to extend custodial detention of the accused. In *Achpal vs State of Rajasthan* (2018), the Court held that an investigation report, albeit complete, if filed by an unauthorised investigating officer, would not bar the accused from availing default bail. In *S. Kasi vs State* (2020), the Court further stated that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the investigating agencies would not be allowed any relaxation towards computing the maximum stipulated period of investigation, which could lead to additional detention of the accused.

This interpretation draws from the history of Section 167 of the CrPC, which has its roots in a recommendation of the 41st Report of the Law Commission. Under the older version of the CrPC, accused persons could be detained for a maximum of 15 days. Noting the abuse of this provision by the police, who kept the accused under extended periods of custody by misusing other provisions pertaining to trial, the Law Commission recommended extending the period for which an accused could be detained in custody. This found its way into the CrPC through an amendment in 1978. To counter the powers granted to investigating authorities through extended detention, a provision for statutory bail was also introduced so as to ensure that the accused is not detained in custody for long periods of time.

Here too, not a bar

Unfortunately, these protections that were guaranteed to the accused were also whittled away in practice, as investigating authorities routinely filed incomplete or supplementary charge sheets within the 60/90 day period, to prevent the accused from seeking default bail. In other instances, the investigating authorities would file charge sheets, incomplete or otherwise, after the 60/90 day period, but before the default bail application could be filed by the accused. The Supreme Court's decision in *Ritu Chhabaria* delegitimised such illegal practices and held that incomplete charge sheets filed by the police would not bar an accused from applying for default bail. The Court emphasised that the preliminary or incomplete nature of these police reports revealed that the investigation was not complete.

Most importantly, in *Ritu Chhabaria*, the Court did not lay down any radically new proposition. Rather, it drew from prior judgments, such as *Uday Mohanlal Acharya v. State of Maharashtra*, which delineated the constitutional foundations of the right of an accused to avail statutory bail. Thus, *Ritu Chhabaria* did not create any additional hurdles in investigation. Rather, highlighting the indefeasible nature of the right to seek default bail, the Court in *Ritu Chhabaria* simply reiterated that incomplete charge sheets could not prohibit the accused from seeking to be released on default bail.

This is further seen in other judgments which have deviated from *Ritu Chhabaria* on questions of fact. For instance, in *Jasbir Singh* (2023), the Supreme Court held that a complete charge sheet filed within time could not be rejected because the investigation did not have sanction. Given these possibilities, it remains unclear as to why the Court would want to consider the possibility of recalling the judgment on legally tenuous grounds.

This decision is particularly alarming because the right to default bail, which has been interpreted so far as flowing from the Indian Constitution, could possibly be made subservient to concerns of 'difficulties' faced by investigative authorities. What makes the matter even more serious is the Supreme Court also agreed to defer decisions on default bail for accused persons across the country which would have been decided as per *Ritu Chhabaria*. Given the serious implications of this judgment on the constitutional rights of the accused, it is imperative that the three-judge bench of the Supreme Court hearing this matter does not sacrifice procedural propriety at the altar of administrative convenience.

The top court's order seeking to recall its decision in the Ritu Chhabaria case would deviate from fundamental principles of criminal procedure

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Karnataka results

The very first thing that the Congress must learn from its spectacular victory in Karnataka is that it should not get carried away. The Bharatiya Janata Party should reconcile to the fact that 'injecting' too much religion into politics will not necessarily guarantee success. It appears that the State is fast becoming a two-party one as the Janata Dal (Secular), one of the most opportunistic parties, stands decimated. The Congress must choose its leader without any further delay and get on with the task of governing, and delivering on its poll promises. The BJP has to introspect a lot as it has been routed in the polls. With the total 'exclusion' of Muslims from its list of candidates, how can the BJP meaningfully profess "*Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas-Sabka Prayas*"? Meanwhile, the Congress should remember that its success in Karnataka does not guarantee or open any gateway for success in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. It has to perform to survive meaningfully.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

For those who value democracy through the ballot route, the absolute majority secured by the Congress in Karnataka in the May 10 elections to the State Assembly is remarkable. But the reasons are not far to seek. The people of Karnataka were fed up with corruption, to name one major issue. Now, it is for the Congress to set right many things that were wrong and ensure that the people of the State ensure good and corruption-free governance.

B.M. Baliga,
Bengaluru

The 'double engine' concept itself militates against the federal system as the Union government should be even-handed in helping the States for the overall development of the country irrespective of the party complexion in the States. No other Prime Minister in living memory has been so party-oriented, but the "Modi magic" did not click. The election results have also underscored the futility of exit polls.

V.N. Gopal,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Evaluating DNA report as evidence

In its recent judgments, the Supreme Court has been critical of admitting DNA report as clinching evidence in criminal cases. In *Rahul v. the State of Delhi, Ministry of Home Affairs* (2022), the Court said "the collection and sealing of the samples sent for examination were not free from suspicion." It objected to the fact that the Delhi High Court and the trial court did not examine the underlying basis of the findings in the DNA reports and also did not examine whether the expert reliably applied the techniques. Based on this reason, despite the 'match' result of the DNA analysis, and other findings, the Court acquitted all the three persons who were accused of rape and murder. In *Manoj v. State of Madhya Pradesh* (2022), where the expert explained the technique of DNA analysis, but did not mention the 'random occurrence ratio,' the Court held that there was the likelihood of contamination as one of the reference samples was collected from an open area.

R.K. Vij

is a former Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh. Views are personal

Careful sampling is a must

The first responder on the scene of crime needs to ensure that the biological sample is dried under room temperature and sealed in a paper, and not plastic, bag. The sample should be free from any contamination due to humic acid, which is a primary constituent of the soil. Touching areas where DNA may exist, and talking, sneezing and coughing over evidence must be avoided. No other human contact should be allowed, and stained articles must be packed separately.

Liquid blood samples must be collected using blood collection cards or EDTA (Ethylene Diamine Tetra Acetic Acid) vials in a vaccination box with coolants to maintain low temperature. Other body fluid samples may be collected in indicator cards. The investigating officer (IO) must ensure that the properly sealed samples reach the forensic science laboratory (FSL) in the stipulated time period, maintaining proper chain of custody. In fact, the Union Home Ministry had provided a sizeable number of sexual assault evidence collection kits containing blood collection cards and EDTA vials in 2020 to all the States so that the biological samples are collected and preserved in the best possible manner for DNA analysis. The States need to continue with this good practice.

The first step in the FSL is to extract DNA material from a sample by separating other elements, such as RNA, proteins, lipids, cell debris and humic acid. Nowadays, automated machines are used to extract DNA from the biological material depending upon low and high copy number of DNA for further analysis. The next step is the quantification of the extracted DNA material using the RT-PCR machine. Further analysis is carried out irrespective of the number of copies found during quantification. Once the quality as well as the quantity of the sample (both reference and control) is known, the sample is subjected to amplification by STR (Short Tandem Repeats) typing (with 16, 24 or more genetic markers) using the PCR machine. STR typing means to mark locations which identify uniqueness and are different in every individual.

If the sample does not contain sufficient DNA during quantification, it is indicative of degradation. In spite of the quality of the DNA, if the profile is not obtained, it indicates the possibility of non-amplification of DNA which may be due to contaminants or PCR inhibiters in the sample. In the end, PCR products are separated using automated genetic analysers and the results are compared with the provided referral sample. The result is interpreted as match (inclusion) or not-match (exclusion) or inconclusive (only when partial DNA profile is generated). The obtained STR profile may be from a single source or it may be a mixed profile which is obtained mostly in evidences of sexual assault cases.

Some standard guidelines need to be laid down by the Court for admitting the DNA expert's report as credible evidence

Therefore, if the sample size and quality is good enough to reach a 'match' result, it cannot be said that the sample might be contaminated (irrespective of the fact that it was collected from an open area). Had the sample been sufficiently contaminated, the 'match' result would not have been arrived at. All stakeholders of the criminal justice system need to be sensitised about the techniques of DNA analysis.

Random match probability

The Court has questioned the forensic expert for not mentioning the 'random occurrence ratio'. This statistical ratio or 'random match probability' (RMP) is referred to as the frequency of the particular DNA profile in a population. A small RMP value means the profile is rare in the population and vice versa. The Central FSL, Directorate of Forensic Sciences, released a Working Procedures Manual Forensic DNA Testing in 2019, which prescribes the procedure for calculating RMP for automated STRs. Therefore, there is no justifiable reason for a DNA expert not to mention RMP in its report.

In the *Rahul* case, the Court objected to the fact that the sample was not collected by the inspector who was present in the hospital during the post-mortem, and was collected a day later by a constable. It said there was a possibility of tampering as the samples were kept in the Police Station Malkhana for a few days after seizure. This assumption seems unfounded as unless the chain of custody is broken, and adverse evidence is adduced in the court, only an administrative delay should become a basis to reject the prosecution story.

DNA technology has evolved over the years. As the evidence of DNA matching in criminal cases, particularly those based on circumstantial evidence, acquires great importance, some standard guidelines need to be laid down by the Court for admitting the DNA expert's report as credible evidence.

A Cabinet reshuffle in Tamil Nadu

It conveys that talent will be appreciated, but damage to the party will not be tolerated

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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Ever since an audio clip purportedly attributed to Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan leaked last month, Fort St. George was keen to know what would befall him. In the clip, the person is heard being highly critical of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's family members.

Mr. Rajan sought to clarify that the tape was fabricated and it looked like he would survive the episode. But his continuation in the Cabinet become a subject of intense speculation after a second tape emerged in which a voice resembling Mr. Rajan's was heard being critical of the DMK party structure.

Instead of dropping him from the Cabinet, Mr. Stalin effected a reshuffle of portfolios and Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu was made Finance Minister. With this move, Mr. Stalin conveyed the clear message that he will not tolerate anyone who is believed to be shooting his mouth off and damaging the image of the party and the government, but there will always be a space for talent. The Chief Minister decided to dismiss Milk and Dairy Development Minister Avadi S.M. Nasar whose behaviour in public had once caused embarrassment and whose improper handling of Aavin milk production and distribution had attracted criticism.

Though a Cabinet reshuffle was on the cards, what delayed it was the search for a suitable alternative to Mr. Rajan. The former Finance Minister, who has now been given the Information Technology and Digital Services portfolio, is an articulate, competent professional, who attracted national attention as a voice of an alternative ideology to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Finally, Mr. Thennarasu, another talented Minister in the Cabinet who is known for his in-depth understanding of an array of subjects, was chosen for the job. Mr. Thennarasu, who is comfortable with handling Industries as well as Tamil Culture and Archaeology – two subjects close to his heart – had reservations about taking over the Ministry of Finance from Mr. Rajan. After days of persuasion, Mr. Stalin succeeded in prevailing upon him to accept the key portfolio.

What followed subsequently was more important: T. Udhayachandran, Secretary 1 to the Chief Minister, was shifted to the Finance Department as Principal Secretary. Considered a powerful IAS officer who has the ears of Mr. Stalin, Mr. Udhayachandran is said to have been looking for a transfer for some time. He has been replaced by N. Muruganandhan, who was Principal Secretary of the Finance Department.

While Mr. Rajan and Mr. Udhayachandran are considered to be boons to the administration, they have both been criticised by ruling party functionaries and officials for acting as "gatekeepers" of the government. Ministers, their personal assistants, and officials who wanted them both to go but were not certain of such a possibility, are relieved now. By making these changes, the Chief Minister also appears to have made the party functionaries happy.

Contrary to the perception that he would quit in the wake of being divested of the Finance portfolio, Mr. Rajan gracefully accepted the change and tweeted that he was grateful to Mr. Stalin who had assigned him the portfolio of Information Technology – globally the main industry for investment and job-creation today. He is expected to prove his mettle in the new job.

However, the issues raised by Mr. Rajan after assuming office as Finance Minister in May 2021 cannot be ignored by anyone in the government. He had told *The Hindu* then, "I am going to find out where all these leakages are happening and fix it. Once we discover what the average income was as a percentage of GSDP from commercial tax, excise, mining, registration, stamps and different heads, the figures will be given to those departments as targets. They will be given as revenue targets to different Ministries. When was the last time this was done in Tamil Nadu?"

While many speculated about whether the Council of Ministers would be overhauled, significant changes have taken place. The victory of the Congress in the Karnataka Assembly elections has come as a shot in the arm for Mr. Stalin, who, as DMK president, is under compulsion to keep together the alliance in Tamil Nadu and knit a broader national coalition for the Lok Sabha elections next year. He cannot afford to let his engagement with electoral politics affect governance in the State. Hopefully, the recent reshuffle will help Mr. Stalin maintain that balance.

Higher turnout and bipolar contests favour BJP more

The turnout in urban constituencies is lower compared to rural constituencies, but it has significantly improved in many seats over time in Karnataka

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishan & Jasmin Nihalani

Historically, across most States, the turnout has been low in urban constituencies compared to rural constituencies. While this was true even during the Karnataka Assembly elections, the turnout has increased considerably over the last 15 years across many urban seats. In 17 out of 33 urban constituencies, the voter turnout in 2023 was higher than what it was in the last three Assembly polls (2018, 2013 and 2008). Moreover, in 12 urban constituencies, the vote share increased by more than 10 percentage points compared to 2008.

The table lists the change in turnout in 2023 compared to 2008, 2013 and 2018 (in percentage points). A negative number shows a decrease in turnout and a positive number shows an increase. For instance, in Shanti Nagar, the turnout increased by 10.3 points in 2023 compared to 2008, 3.4 points in 2023 compared to 2013, and 1.2 points in 2023 compared to 2018.

In parallel to the rise in urban turnout in Karnataka, three other changes were observed in the voting patterns of city dwellers. First, the effective number of parties competing in urban seats decreased from three to two over the last decade. Although the total number of parties competing for a seat is determined by the nominations submitted, the "effective number of parties" within a constituency is based on the votes they obtain. Based on their vote shares, some parties are labelled as parties that competed "effectively."

More precisely, urban voters moved away from Janata Dal (Secular) and increasingly preferred either the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or the Congress, turning the seats into bipolar contests. Independent candidates and those belonging to smaller regional parties also met with a similar fate. For instance, in the Padmanabha Nagar seat, the JD(S)'s vote share declined by 21 points compared to 2008, 16 points compared to 2013, and 23 points compared to 2008. In fact, in 21 of the 33 urban seats in Karnataka, the JD(S)'s vote share in 2023 was the lowest compared to 2008, 2013 and 2018, and by a high margin.

Second, there was a consequent rise in the votes polled for the BJP and the Congress. For instance, in Mahalakshmi Layout, where the JD (S) secured about 44% and 55% of the votes in 2013 and 2018, respectively, the party ended up with just 6% of the votes in 2023. Most of the votes went to the BJP. In Chamrajpet, the JD(S) secured 48% and 52% of the votes in 2008 and 2013, respectively, but only 15% of the votes in 2023. Here, most of the votes went to the Congress.

Third, while the Congress has enjoyed a fair share of success with bipolarity becoming common in urban seats over the years, as seen in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and other States, bipolar contests have mostly favoured the BJP. This was true in the case of the 2023 Karnataka polls too. Between 2018 and 2023, the BJP's vote share increased by 10 points or more in seven of the 33 urban seats compared to four for the Congress. Between 2013 and 2023, the BJP's vote share increased by 10 points or more in 23 of the 33 urban seats compared to nine for the Congress. Between 2008 and 2023, the vote shares increased by 10 points or more in nine seats and 10 seats for the BJP and Congress, respectively.

So, not only has the BJP managed to mobilise its core support base – the urban voters – to the voting centres, but also gained from the increasingly bipolar nature of the elections in urban areas. The Congress has also benefited to an extent by this shift in voting pattern.

Shift in urban voting pattern

The data for the tables was sourced from the Political Career Tracker for candidates in Indian National and State Assembly Elections, Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University. The tables show the increase/decrease (in percentage points) in the vote share secured by various parties in urban seats. The change in voter turnout is also listed

	BJP			Congress			JD(S)			Turnout		
Constituency Name	2008-2023	2013-2023	2018-2023	2008-2023	2013-2023	2018-2023	2008-2023	2013-2023	2018-2023	2008-2023	2013-2023	2018-2023
Narasimharaja	+11	+18	+1	+8	+12	+7	-29	-23	-7	+13	-9	+1
Chamaraja	+4	+22	+9	+15	+10	+22	-17	-23	-16	+10	-6	0
Krishnaraja	-6	+13	-4	+6	+3	+9	-1	-3	-5	+3	0	+2
Mangalore City South	+6	+14	+3	-1	-10	-1		-1	0	+1	-1	+6
Anekal	-4	+6	-5	+16	-3	+4	-11	-1		+3	+7	+4
Bangalore South	+9	+11	+5	+16	+13	+2	-14	-22	-4	+8	+4	+5
Bommanahalli	+1	+3	-4	+1	+7	+8	-4	-4	-3	+5	+5	-1
Mahadevapura	+2	+6	+4	-2	-5	-3				+2	+7	+5
Jayanagar	-1	+2	+2	+25	+15	-1	-11	-12	0	+11	-2	-1
B.T.M Layout	-1	+25	+10	+4	-12	+1	-5	-6	-11	+2	+4	+2
Padmanaba Nagar	+10	+20	+14	+9	+1	+7	-21	-16	-23	+3	+2	+4
Basavanagudi	+9	+19	+3	-20	-2	+10	+9	-8	-14	+12	-2	0
Chickpet	+4	+15	0	+2	-6	-3	-22	-21	-4	+11	0	+1
Chamrajpet	-7	+3	-8	+45	+38	+8	-33	-37	-1	+13	+5	+2
Vijay Nagar	+17	+13	+1	-14	-7	+4				+9	+4	-1
Govindraj Nagar	+15	+20	-7	0	-4	+8	-15	-13	-2	+11	+1	+1
Rajaji Nagar	-2	+13	+3	+7	+20	+4	-4	-12	-8	+4	+5	+1
Gandhi Nagar	+7	+12	+11	0	-9	+3	+6	+3	-19	+13	0	0
Shanti Nagar	+10	+34	+11	-1	-2	+1	-4	-32	-10	+10	+3	+1
Shivajinagar	-3	+6	-3	+5	+4	+4				+9	-2	0
C.V. Raman Nagar	+1	+3	+9	+6	-1	+6				+7	+6	+3
Sarvagnanagar	+11	-1	+1	+19	+12	-1	-14	-4	-1	+17	-2	+1
Pulakeshinagar	-6	+4	+1	+16	+28	-10	-27	-48	-12	+12	+2	0
Hebbal	-11	+5	+2	+14	+29	+7	-3	-21	-9	+10	0	+3
Malleshwaram	+12	+11	-4	-13	-3	+8	0	-1	-4	+3	+7	+3
Mahalakshmi Layout	+26	+45	+31	-9	-6	+16	-19	-39	-49	+3	+6	+1
Dasarahalli	-7	+10	+1	-10	-5	+4	+14	+13	-8	+6	+5	-1
Rajarajeshwari-nagar	+7	+22	+17	+16	+7	+2	-23	-25	-21	+6	+3	+3
Byatarayanapura	+5	+11	-2	+11	+8	+9	-14	-18	-7	+3	+6	+4
K.R.Pura	+3	+11	+12	+1	-10	-10	-4	-1	-2	+10	+6	+5
Yelahanka	+10	+13	+3	-2	+1	+11	-9	-13	-15	+2	+4	+3
Tumkur City	-4	+24	-2	-9	-5	-3	+9	+4	0	+14	-1	-1
Gulbarga Uttar	+4	+26	+4	-9	-3	+2	+8	+8	0	+7	-8	-4

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 16, 1973

Did Czar escape from Russia?

London, May 15: A top British politician believes the Governments of the United States and Britain have evidence that the last Czar of Russia escaped alive from the Revolution.

Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, leader of the Liberal Party, said, "The mystery of the Czar's fate is yielding up new secrets. The assassination version is increasingly open to doubt."

Czar Nicholas II and his family were believed slain by Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution. Since then there have been frequently recurring stories that the Czar's daughter, Anastasia, had escaped. But until now there has been little serious speculation that the Czar himself survived.

Mr. Thorpe asked the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home, in Parliament last night to publish a letter from Lord Harding of Penshurst to King George V dated June 3 or June 5, 1919 "containing the details of the escape route of Czar Nicholas II and other members of his family."

Mr. Thorpe also sought details of communications between the Foreign Office and "private or Government citizens" in Washington since last May "regarding the rescue of Czar Nicholas II in 1918-1919."

The House of Commons authorities ruled his questions out of order, giving no explanation. But Mr. Thorpe said he intended to pursue the issue in Parliament.

The Foreign Office said it was not concerned with the fate of the Czar. But a spokesman added: "All the historical evidence suggests that he died in the Soviet Union."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 16, 1923

Another bank failure

Lahore, May 15: The Amritsar National Bank has closed its doors. It is stated that since the failure of the Alliance Bank of Simla there has been continuous withdrawals from the Bank. The Directors have tried their utmost to meet their demand. Since then withdrawals have continued with great rapidity. They have resolved with great regret to suspend payment from today to safeguard the interest of all concerned. A meeting of the shareholders will be held at 11 a.m. on the 28th May to consider the position.

From Page One

Shivakumar skips Delhi visit; suspense on

The top leadership of the party had called both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar for further discussions; the former has already reached Delhi. The KPCC chief, who celebrated his 62nd birthday on Monday, not only claimed credit for the victory but also the support of 135 MLAs. "Yesterday [May 14] 135 MLAs gave their opinion and passed one-line resolution, a few MLAs have expressed their personal opinion. My power is 135 MLAs. Under my leadership, the party has won 135 seats," he said. "I have single-handedly taken the party to victory," Mr. Shivakumar asserted.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah told a TV channel that majority of the MLAs had backed him at the Sunday's Congress Legislature Party meeting. "Most of the MLAs wanted me to be the Chief Minister of Karnataka," he said. KPCC campaign committee chairman M.B. Patil, who is loyal to Mr. Siddaramaiah, however, took a more cautious approach and said the high command was yet to count the votes cast by MLAs-elect on electing the CLP leader. There is also talk about a power-sharing arrangement between the two contenders in which Mr. Siddaramaiah could be the first choice, while Mr. Shivakumar could be considered for the top job after the 2024 Lok Sabha poll.

SEBI denies probing Adani since 2016

The court had even urged the SEBI to show "some alacrity" in its investigation. The court has adjourned the Adani-Hindenburg case to July 10.

The May 12 hearing took an unexpected turn when Mr. Bhushan, for the petitioners, submitted orally that the SEBI had been investigating Adani since 2016. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta vehemently denied Mr. Bhushan's submission. He said the latter was referring to a "completely unconnected" investigation. The SEBI's affidavit took pains to explain that "the 'investigation' referred to by the petitioners pertained to the issuance of Global Depository Receipts by 51 Indian listed companies". "No listed company of the Adani Group was part of the aforesaid 51 companies. Pursuant to the completion of investigation [into the 51 companies], appropriate enforcement actions were taken," the SEBI maintained.

The relevant page of the Lok Sabha records posted by Mr. Ramesh on social media shows that one of the questions asked by Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra was "whether the FPIs and/or Adani entities are under investigation by SEBI, IT, ED, DRI, MCA for suspicious transactions..." To this, the Minister had confirmed that "SEBI is investigating some Adani Group of companies with regard to compliance with SEBI regulations". The Ministry responded to Mr. Ramesh's tweet with a statement that "the government stands by its reply on July 19, 2021". When asked about the government's affirmation of its reply in Parliament about the SEBI's ongoing probe into the Adani Group, Mr. Ramesh told *The Hindu* that this was at odds with the regulator's stance.

Mamata offers to back Congress in other States

In his reaction, Congress State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said: "The Congress is very capable of defeating the Trinamool in Bengal. We have done this in the past and we will do it again in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll."

Ms. Banerjee said, "Whoever is strong in some places and regions, they should fight together [not against each other]. Suppose Bengal, so we [Trinamool] should fight Bengal. Suppose Delhi, so AAP [Aam Aadmi Party] should fight Delhi. In Bihar, Nitish*ji* [Kumar] and Tejashwi*ji* [Yadav] and the Congress also should decide their formula." The Chief Minister maintained that the verdict in Karnataka was against the BJP government and wherever the regional parties were strong, the BJP could not do anything. Mr. Chowdhury, however, said Ms. Banerjee had never urged the people of Karnataka to support the Congress and now she was trying to jump on the Congress's bandwagon.

Centre against ethnic division of Manipur: CM

Manipur has some 30 extremist outfits belonging to the Kuki-Chin-Zomi group and 25 of them are party to the agreement. In March, the State government withdrew the agreement with the Kuki National Army and the Zomi Revolutionary Army, accusing them of inciting forest encroachers against the government.

"The Centre has asked the State government to bring back normalcy irrespective of caste, religion, and community. We have been advised to conduct massive outreach programmes," Mr. Singh said, adding that the Home Minister would be sending emissaries to Manipur for reconnecting the communities. He said 500 weapons snatched from police establishments during the clashes had been recovered. "Amit Shah has assured the people of the State that as per the rules of the agreement, joint monitoring committee along with the Army and the State police jointly inspected many camps and found the weapons still intact with the group," Mr. Singh said.

More Odisha districts come under tribal initiative

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Naveen Patnaik government has expanded the jurisdiction of the Special Development Council (SDC), a unique targeted intervention in the tribal areas, from nine to 23 districts intending to directly touch the lives of 84 lakh indigenous people. The tribal community constitutes 22.8% of Odisha's population.

"The SDC has been designed in such a way that we can directly improve the lives of tribals in the State. Though 50% of the funds made available to us can be spent for infrastructure, the remaining 50% can be earmarked for sports, culture, skill-training, livelihood promotion and information, education and communication," said Pradip Majhi, advisor to SDC.

The Odisha CM said the SDC would help preserve culture and tradition of even small tribal groups.

The State has spent a total of ₹281.54 crore in more than 60,000 projects in tribal-dominated areas. This year, the government plans to spend ₹223.5 crore for the SDC.

Aryan Khan case: Wankhede accused of irregularities

CBI names former NCB zonal director, two more officials in FIR for their role in conspiracy by 'independent witness' with others to extort ₹25 crore from the family of actor Shah Rukh Khan

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Sameer Wankhede, former Mumbai zone director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), and two other officials have been accused of serious irregularities owing to which an "independent witness" in the cruise ship case allegedly conspired with others to extort ₹25 crore from the family of Aryan Khan, according to the first information report (FIR) registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Aryan is the son of actor Shah Rukh Khan.

In its complaint, the NCB had alleged that on receipt of information about the consumption and possession of drugs by various persons on the *Cordelia* cruise ship on October 2, 2021, Mr. Wankhede and then superintendent Vishwa Vijay Singh formed a team for conducting a search-and-seizure operation at the entry gate of the International Terminal Building of the Mumbai Port Trust and the *Cordelia* cruise. Intelligence officer Ashish Ranjan Prasad was made the investigating officer, while Kiran Gosavi and Prabhakar Sail were taken as "independent witnesses" in one of the incidents in the case.

More revelations: File photo of Aryan Khan being taken to Arthur Road jail in Mumbai following his arrest. PTI

Names dropped

Following the graft charge, the NCB conducted an inquiry and found that the names of certain suspects had allegedly been dropped from the first information note and those of some others included subsequently through modification to suit the proceedings.

The initial note contained 27 names and the modified note only 10. During the exercise, one Arbaaz A. Merchant accepted that he was carrying "*charas*" hidden inside his shoes and it was seized.

The search of many others whose names were available with the NCB officials was done but it was not documented. Some suspects were allowed to leave without any documentation.

The inquiry revealed that the accused persons were brought to the NCB office in a private vehicle of Mr. Gosavi. It appeared that his presence with the accused persons was allowed intentionally so as to give the impression that he was an NCB staffer.

Against the norms, he was even allowed to come to the NCB office after the raid. During the entire process, he took selfies with Mr. Aryan and also allegedly recorded his voice note.

According to the FIR, all this allowed Mr. Gosavi, his aide Sanvile D'Souza and others to enter into a conspiracy to extort ₹25 crore from the family members of Aryan by threatening to get him framed for the possession of drugs.

The amount was finally brought down to ₹18 crore. A token of ₹50 lakh was also taken as bribe by Mr. Gosavi and his aide, but later a part of it was returned.

The NCB alleged that as per the findings of its vigilance branch, Mr. Wankhede had not properly explained his foreign visits and had apparently misdeclared the expenditure on his foreign travels. He had also not declared the source of the foreign visits properly.

The CBI has summoned Mr. Wankhede on May 18 to record his statement.

'BJP rule saw excise scam of ₹4,400 cr. in Chhattisgarh'

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

With the Enforcement Directorate (ED) turning the heat on the Chhattisgarh government in connection with an alleged ₹2,000-crore liquor scam, the ruling Congress on Monday accused the previous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime of indulging in an even bigger, ₹4,400-crore excise scam.

The Congress's State media in-charge, Sushil Anand Shukla, demanded an ED probe into the said scam that, according to him, was the consequence of the policy adopted by former Chief Minister Raman Singh.

"The undue benefit to the retail tenderers of country/foreign liquor between the years 2012-13 to 2016-17, by providing higher profit percentage, caused an economic loss of about ₹4,400 crore to the State government," Mr. Shukla said. Most of the allegations are already being probed in a 2019-case registered by the Chhattisgarh Economic Offences Wing in which a former officer on special duty in the Excise Department, is the main accused.

If law is drafted well, judiciary won't get opportunity to overstep it: Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said if a law was drafted well, the judiciary would not get an opportunity to overstep it.

Mr. Shah said laws should be drafted in as simple and clear words as possible because difficult words always created controversy. "Making a law that cannot be disputed for the next 25 years and the court does not need to intervene is a medal for drafting a good law," Mr. Shah said.

The Home Minister said Article 370 of the Constitution that provided special status to the former State of Jammu and Kashmir was a temporary provision and whoever drafted the law was sharp enough to insert the phrase "temporary" in the index.

> ...The written debates of the time when Article 370 was inserted are not available. Whoever drafted the law was sharp enough to add temporary provision against it
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Union Home Minister

"Any provision in the Constitution cannot be temporary. The written debates of the time when Article 370 was inserted are not available. Whoever drafted the law was sharp enough to add temporary provision against it," the Minister said.

He said the spirit of "our languages" was important and as most laws were drafted in English, many a time the intent of the legislator was not reflected in the English version.

He added that grey areas left scope for encroachment and legislation should be drafted in a manner that reflected the political will of the Cabinet or Parliament. Words should be expanded to sentences.

"Most laws are drafted in English but to reflect the spirit of our languages is very important. Many times, the intent of the legislator doesn't match with the English translation of the law.," he said.

Training programme

Mr. Shah made the remarks at the inauguration of a training programme on legislative drafting organised by PRIDE and ICPS for officers of Parliament, State Legislatures, various Ministries, statutory bodies and other government departments in New Delhi.

Mr. Shah said legislative drafting was a crucial component of our democracy and a lack of knowledge about it not only weakened the laws, but also the entire democratic system. It also affected the functioning of the judiciary.

Situation in Akola, Ahmednagar under control: Fadnavis

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

In the wake of violence in Akola and Ahmednagar districts, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said some persons were deliberately instigating such clashes in a bid to "destabilise" the State. He said the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP government would not let anyone foment riots in Maharashtra.

Mr. Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, said the situation in Akola city, where clashes broke out between two communities late on Saturday, and Ahmednagar was under control.

"Somebody is deliberately trying to instigate clashes and destroy law and order in the State but the police were on full alert. There are some organisations and people who are trying to destabilise the State, but the government will teach them a lesson. To some extent, these riots are politically motivated," he said.

Many injured

One person was killed and 10, including two policemen, were injured in the melee that erupted in Akola on Saturday night. In Ahmednagar, at least five persons were injured in a communal clash in Shevgaon village during a procession on Sunday.

The police have detained more than 80 persons so far in the Akola incident, and 32 persons in the Ahmednagar clash.

Centre faces tough choice as Taliban pick a new Ambassador for Delhi

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Taliban regime's decision to recall Afghan Ambassador Farid Mamundzay and appoint current Trade Counsellor Qadir Shah as the chargé d'affaires (Acting Ambassador) in his place has posed a tough decision for the government on the situation in Afghanistan and its engagement with the Taliban.

While rejecting the Taliban regime's appointment could see repercussions for India's "technical mission" in Kabul, accepting it would be seen as handing over the embassy in Delhi to the insurgent group that took power in Kabul in 2021, but has not received recognition from any country so far.

While most countries where Afghanistan ran missions have refused to accede to the Taliban appointments, Russia, China, Pakistan, the Central Asian states and Iran have allowed the Taliban-appointed diplomats to run the missions, and even raise the Taliban or "Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan" (IEA) flag.

The flashpoint

The tussle between the two became public on Sunday, after Afghan media outlets published a letter from Afghans based in India accusing the existing Ambassador and other officials of corruption. In response, Mr. Mamundzay, who has been the Ambassador since 2020, called the allegations "one-sided, biased and untruthful". In a statement issued on Monday, the embassy also "categorically rejected" the claims of Mr. Shah to take charge of the mission.

Diplomatic sources told *The Hindu* that trouble has been brewing within the embassy over the past month after the Taliban Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)'s Human Resources Director issued a letter, recalling Mr. Mamundzay and asking him to report to the MFA in Kabul.

Another order on the same date by Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said that Trade Counsellor Qadir Shah would "supervise affairs at the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, India". When contacted, Mr. Shah said he was not affiliated to any "political party, group or movement".

The External Affairs Ministry declined to comment on the Taliban decision, with officials suggesting that this was an "internal" matter for the embassy to resolve.

Activists slam Centre, States for failing to implement Forest Act, to stage protests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following a two-day convention on forest rights held in Delhi, more than hundred indigenous, forest-dwelling, and tribal delegates from 12 States across the country on Monday condemned State governments and the Centre over the failure to implement the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and also spoke of deteriorating forest rights under the current regime.

The convention was attended by activists and local leaders who are fighting for recognition of individual and community forest rights. It was resolved that all participants will organise block-level, district-level, or State-level demonstrations seeking recognition of forest rights under existing laws on June 5 and August 9. The attendees included those from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

United fight: Jawahar Sircar, MP, interacts with tribal leaders on the amendments to Forest Conservation Act. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The coalition has decided that they will present the following key demands through their upcoming demonstrations. These include, "Recognise the individual forest rights of all forest dwellers and the community forest rights of all villages in forest areas; withdraw or amend all recently passed environment and forest laws that violate forest rights; direct action against forest officials who violate forest rights and/or decisions of gram sabhas under the Forest Rights Act; and ensure that any project using forest land is only approved after the consent of affected villages' gram sabhas and made subject to their plans for managing the forests, as required by the law".

SC refuses to entertain plea against Rijiju, Dhankhar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea challenging the Bombay High Court order, which had dismissed a petition against Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, over their remarks on the judiciary and the collegium system for the appointment of judges.

The plea came up for hearing before a Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and A. Amanullah. "What is this? You are for the petitioner? Why have you come here? Just to complete a circle of coming to the higher court," the Bench observed.

"If any authority has made an inappropriate statement, the observations that Supreme Court is broad enough to deal with the same is the correct view," the Bench said.

The Bombay Lawyers Association (BLA) had approached the apex court challenging the High Court's February 9 order, dismissing its plea on the grounds that it was not a fit case to invoke the writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution. The BLA had claimed that Mr. Rijiju and Mr. Dhankhar showed lack of faith in the Constitution with their remarks and conduct.

All eyes on Cong. as Opposition gears up for strategy meeting

Main aim of the meeting is to work on the 'BJP versus one Opposition candidate' formula; many agree that Karnataka win has erased doubt over the Congress's position as the leader of the pack

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Coalition politics: Nitish Kumar (right) and Rahul Gandhi addressing joint press conference after meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi in April. FILE PHOTO

The long-awaited Opposition meeting hinges on the Congress putting its house in order in Karnataka and having a Chief Minister in place. The main aim of the meeting is to settle the disagreements to ensure that in every Lok Sabha constituency, it is "BJP versus one Opposition candidate".

The swearing-in in Karnataka will be the first platform to bring all the Opposition leaders together and will serve as a precursor to a larger gathering.

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar is already building the ground to hold the meeting in Patna, proposing it as a neutral venue, especially for the regional parties, as opposed to Delhi, which was the venue of an Opposition meeting hosted by the Congress ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Sources say heads of over a dozen Opposition parties have already agreed to attend the meeting. No date has, however, been set.

"Nitish*ji* is in touch with all Opposition parties and as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urged him, the meeting will be held in Patna," JD(U) secretary- general K.C. Tyagi said.

Patna, he said, has greater political significance as it acted as the epicentre of the JP Movement that gave birth to coalition politics in the country.

The Opposition leaders agree that with the Congress's emphatic victory in the Karnataka Assembly election, at least for the time being, the doubt over the party's position as the leader of the pack has been erased, with even staunch critic such as Ms. Banerjee conceding the position in its favour.

"There is willingness to engage, and the Karnataka Assembly results have only served to deepen it," senior RJD leader Manoj K. Jha said.

The formula that the Opposition is aiming for remains tricky, especially in States where the contest is not bipolar. While it may not be difficult to achieve in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh or Gujarat where the Congress is stronger than the other Opposition parties, the course will not be smooth in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Punjab and Maharashtra where multiple Opposition parties would be vying for the same slot. This, many agree, would have to be worked out at the State level. Regardless of the meeting, the Opposition leaders are in constant touch with each other.

On Monday, CPI general secretary D. Raja met Sharad Pawar in Mumbai. "We both agree that the electoral strategy for general elections will have to be framed at the State-level keeping in mind the political situation there," Mr. Raja said.

Pilot gives ultimatum to Rajasthan government to act on corruption cases

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Clarion call: Sachin Pilot addresses his supporters at the 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' in Ajmer on Monday. PTI

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Monday gave an ultimatum to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to act on the corruption cases against the previous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime by the end of the month, failing which he would launch a massive State-wide agitation.

Mr. Pilot said at a huge public rally organised here on the conclusion of his five-day 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' from Ajmer that nothing would scare or suppress him and he would "continue to serve the people of Rajasthan till his last breath".

"Despite facing abuses, I have worked for strengthening the party organisation when others took advantage," he said.

In addition to the call for a high-level probe into the alleged instances of corruption and scandals during the BJP rule, Mr. Pilot raised two other demands for disbanding and reconstituting the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), and payment of compensation to youth affected by the cancellation of government recruitment exams after question paper leaks.

The former Deputy Chief Minister has been raising the issues of corruption and paper leaks for some time in response to Mr. Gehlot's charge that he was privy to the BJP's plans to pull down the Congress government when he rebelled against the party in 2020.

Mr. Pilot staged a day-long fast on April 11 and undertook a 125-km yatra from Ajmer to Jaipur to press for his demands and put pressure on the Gehlot government.

Contrary to expectations that he would tone down his rhetoric or try to show a united face after the Congress's victory in Karnataka, Mr. Pilot said that he would continue to fight for probity in public life and raise the issues crucial for common people.

While the MLAs loyal to Mr. Pilot were asked not to take part in the foot march to Jaipur, the public rally organised at Bhankrota here turned out to be show of strength with the participation of two Ministers, over a dozen Congress MLAs, chairpersons of Boards, Pradesh Congress Committee office-bearers, District Congress presidents, and Congress candidates in the previous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Referring to Mr. Gehlot's recent claim that former CM Vasundhara Raje and two BJP leaders had helped save his government during the 2020 rebellion, Mr. Pilot said it was strange that the Chief Minister had maligned the image of his own party leaders and praised his political opponents.

"As for me, I have never levelled charges against anyone. My struggle is on the issues," he said.

MLAs from Manipur tribes urge Amit Shah to allow a separate administration

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh speaks with presspersons about his meeting with Amit Shah, in Imphal on Monday. PTI

More than 10 days after violence hit Manipur claiming more than 70 lives and with parts of the State still under curfew, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a series of meetings with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and representatives of the Meitei and Kuki communities on Sunday and Monday.

The Home Ministry, in a statement on Monday, said Mr. Shah reviewed the measures taken for restoring peace in the State that "witnessed violent clashes between two ethnic communities".

Ten MLAs belonging to the Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi-Hmar tribes, including BJP members, reiterated their demand for a separate administration by submitting a representation to Mr. Shah.

The members told Mr. Shah, "There are no tribals left in the Imphal Valley and there are no Meiteis left in the hills. The government of Manipur and its police machinery were communalised and used in the pogrom against the Kuki tribals."

"Our people have lost faith in the Manipur government and can no longer imagine resettling in the valley where their lives are no longer safe. We cannot live together anymore. The only logical way forward is to live separately," the Kuki MLAs said in the representation.

A senior Kuki leader, who met Mr. Shah, said their demand for separate administration was neither rejected nor accepted.

The Home Minister held a meeting with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, four of his Cabinet colleagues and Rajya Sabha member Leishemba Sanajaoba on Sunday. Later, he also met the representatives of the Meitei community.

He directed strict action against the perpetrators of violence and offered complete support and help of the Central government for ensuring lasting peace.

Manipur tribal body moves Supreme Court for 'immediate' deployment of Army in villages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Manipur Tribal Forum Delhi on Monday urged the Supreme Court to direct the Centre to "immediately" deploy the Army in 85 villages where attacks are "likely to happen imminently" and 124 villages "razed to the ground" to allow tribals to return to their homes for rebuilding.

The forum, in a 28-page application, said people's hope for peace had not been realised even though the Supreme Court had made its concern for them clear in a hearing on May 8. The court had termed the incidents in the State a "humanitarian problem".

It was assured by the Union and the Manipur governments that victims would be taken care of and provided medical care. The court had ordered the government to file a status report, listing the case on May 17. But the application, filed by advocate Satya Mitra and represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, said the violence was misrepresented as "clashes" in the media.

"Though the Meiteis and tribals have had differences, yet they have coexisted for decades. Local skirmishes have certainly taken place but the well-planned, organised armed attacks and the razing of villages as has happened is completely unprecedented... Unless the members of these groups and their leaders are arrested and prosecuted, any semblance of peace will be fragile," the application said.

It named "two armed anti-social groups encouraged by the State itself" as responsible for the attacks on the tribals. The application said attacks on tribals have continued since May 8 despite assurance made to the Supreme Court that peace had been restored.

The application has sought an order for the constitution of a Special Investigation Team headed by Harekrishna Deka, former DGP Assam, and monitored by Chief Justice Tinlianthang Vaiphei (retired), to prosecute those behind the violence.

Megmilk, Agrocorp set up joint venture in plant-based food sector

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Megmilk Snow Brand Company Ltd. has announced a partnership with Agrocorp International Pte Ltd., a Singapore-based global agricultural commodities company. The joint venture will manufacture and market plant-based food ingredients.

In its 'Medium-Term Management Plan 2025', Megmilk had identified entering the plant-based food sector as an important new business area.

Agrocorp too has been looking to further expand its downstream business capacity in plant protein extraction, following its first facility in Saskatchewan, Canada.

This partnership will seek to leverage the strengths of both companies, with the joint venture company established in Singapore and a wholly owned subsidiary in Malaysia, where a factory will be set up to manufacture plant protein and starch isolates.

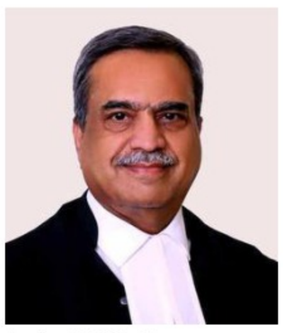
The venture aims to meet the rising demand for plant-based foods and beverages. The companies plan to infuse capital of $21 million in the joint venture, out of which Agrocorp will invest 51% and Megmilk 49%.

"We are excited to partner with Megmilk Snow Brand, one of the largest dairy companies in Japan, to further our capabilities downstream in the plant protein extraction business," Vishal Vijay, director of strategic investments, Agrocorp International, said. "This is our second major investment in protein extraction after our first facility in Saskatchewan, Canada, and we hope to be able to service the growing demand in Asia for plant-based food," he added.

A global agri-commodity firm specialising in the sale of staple food products such as wheat, pulses and sugar to leading food manufacturers in the Asia Pacific and West Asia regions, Agrocorp International has also recently launched its plant-based ingredients business. Masatoshi Sato is the current representative director and president of Megmilk Snow Brand, which is headquartered in Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo.

Not a person to retire, will start new innings: Justice Shah

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



Justice M.R. Shah

The fourth seniormost Supreme Court judge, Justice M.R. Shah, on Monday got emotional in the courtroom on his last day in office, saying he is not a person to retire and will start a new innings in life.

Sitting on the ceremonial Bench presided over by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice Shah broke down at the end of his address and quoted lines from Raj Kapoor's iconic song, *jeena yaha, marna yaha*.

"I am not a person to retire and I am going to start a new inning of my life. I am praying to the almighty God to give me strength and courage and good health to play the new inning," said Justice Shah.

With the retirement of Justice Shah, who was appointed to the top court on November 2, 2018, the number of judges in the top court will come down to 32, including the CJI.

A day before, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari demitted the office.

The top court has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

Justice Shah thanked members of the bar and SC officials and his support staff for helping him serve as the top court judge.

HIMACHAL TOURISM

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation
E-Procurement Notice

Invitation for submission of Expression of Interest for Project Management Design & Supervision Construction Consultant.

1. The Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, HPTDB (Executive Agency) invites 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) for Tourism Infrastructure Development Project for Himachal Pradesh (proposed ADB funded project) from reputed International/Local consultancy firms/organization having extensive experience in Project Management/Design and Supervision Consultancy of similar or multilateral funded project for the work of "Project Management Design & Supervision Construction Consultant".
2. **Availability of EOI Document and mode of submission:** The EOI document is available online and should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in
3. **Key Dates EOI:**

1.	Date of Online Publication	16.05.2023; 18:00 Hrs
2.	Document Download Date	17.05.2023; 18:00 Hrs to
3.	Pre-bid meeting	27.05.2023; 11:30 Hrs.
4.	Last date for receiving queries / clarification.	29.05.2023; 17:00 Hrs.
5.	Last date for online EOI Submission	16.06.2023; 17:00 Hrs
6.	Date of Bid opening	17.06.2023; 11:30 Hrs

4. Pre-bid queries should be submitted at projectdirector.adbhp@gmail.com with subject "Pre-bid queries for tender No. HP/TIDP/PMDSC/01". All queries received upto 29.05.2023;17:00 Hrs. will be entertained.
5. Other details can be seen online in the e- documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information and corrigendum etc. related to the tender. All clarification/addenda shall be uploaded on website only.
6. Director Tourism & Civil Aviation, HP reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Director
-Cum- Mission Director,
Tourism & Civil Aviation,
Shimla, HP.

HP / 0161/2023-2024

E-Procurement Notice
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTCORPORATION LIMITED (HPRIDCL)
Request for Expression of Interest Proposal (REoI)

Date: May 16, 2023

The Director (Projects), H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 , Himachal Pradesh India invitesExpression of Interest from NationalConsultants for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the consultancy Services	Date of availability of Expression of Interest (EoI) on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals
1.	Selection of consultant (NGO) to facilitate in implementation of land acquisition and resettlement for expansion zone of Gaggal Airport in Distt Kanga.	**May 16, 2023**	**May 30, 2023**

REoI & ToR will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html.

Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Expression of Interest Proposals Documents shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **May 30, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)**

Director (Projects)
H.P. State Roads Project,
HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002

HP / 0155/2023-2024

INBRIEF

Government doctors told to prescribe only generic drugs

Prescribe only generic medicines and keep away medical representatives from healthcare facilities, the Health Ministry has directed Union government doctors, citing multiple lapses. The Ministry has said that though all doctors in Union government healthcare facilities have been instructed to prescribe generic medicines only, branded medicines are being prescribed. It added that visits of medical representatives to hospitals should be completely curtailed and any information about a new launch may be communicated by way of email only.

BJP MP booked on charges of abetment of suicide

BJP MP Rajesh Chudasama, representing Junagadh in Gujarat, and his father have been booked by the police on charges of abetment of suicide. A doctor, who allegedly died by suicide in February 2023, is said to have named the duo. Police found a one-line note blaming the MP and his father, who had borrowed more than ₹1.5 crore from the doctor and had not returned the sum. The police registered an FIR on the basis of a complaint filed by Hitarth Chag, the son of Dr. Atul Chag. No arrest has been made in the case.

Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health at 011-4076 9002 (10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., Monday-Saturday).

ED issues fresh summons to NCP MLA Jayant Patil

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday issued fresh summons to the Maharashtra State president of the Nationalist Congress Party Jayant Patil in connection with the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL& FS) money laundering case. Mr Patil, a Cabinet Minister in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi and a seven-term member of the Legislative Assembly, was issued summons on May 10 and asked to appear before the central agency on May 12. He however sought 10 days time, citing personal and official engagements. His statement is likely to be recorded at the Mumbai office of the ED.

ICMR to provide research training to Ayush scholars

The National Institute of Epidemiology, a premier institute of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), will train Ayush researchers in the fundamentals of basic research, under the Union government's integrative healthcare initiative. The initiative requires ICMR to lead research building capacity among Ayush researchers by offering basic training, sharing access to advanced instrumentation systems, and creating a joint database. "ICMR will now lead the research capacity building programme for Ayush researchers while extending online basic research course for all researchers, faculties, and post-graduate scholars of Ayush," said a Health Ministry official. ICMR is the apex body in India for the promotion of biomedical research.

Railways gets on track to overhaul signage system

Directions to be available at key decision-making points; pictograms for wheelchair assistance, ramps, tourist information, mobile-charging points and escalators have been standardised

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is planning to overhaul the signage system at railway stations for better travelling comfort of passengers, on the basis of fresh design principles.

Up to 1,275 stations have been selected under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. They are those located in major cities and places of tourist and pilgrimage importance. "Work is in progress at 88 stations. Tendering and planning is in progress for 1,187 Stations," a senior Railway official said.

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "It was felt to issue standard guidelines on signage at stations that will be consistent and adequate. The Indian Railways will adopt modern, standard signages which are *divyang*-friendly (disabled-friendly)."

Plain speaking: The Railways wants to use clear fonts, pictograms and simple design across its signage. FILE PHOTO

The Railways now prioritises simple language, clear font, easy-to-see colours and intuitive pictograms. "It is made keeping in mind the requirements of all passengers, including the elderly, women, children, *divyangjan* etc. The colours of signage, type and size of fonts have been standardised," the official said.

The current system of signage is inconsistent and inadequate, it was felt. An internal presentation of the Ministry of Railways had pointed out that there is lack of uniformity in some cases. In others, signage overlaps with advertisements and not in the visual scheme of commuters. Some signage are not aesthetically designed and at other places, they are absent.

"New tertiary boards displaying station names with tricolour backgrounds have been introduced. Emphasis has been laid on providing intuitive signage at key decision-making points," the official added.

The concept of grouping of signage has been introduced to help commuters find their way easily. Grouping would provide the hierarchy of how information is shared starting with essential journey information, including train travel and platform; directional information like transport interchange and navigating the station; amenities and facilities like toilets and water; commercial facilities like restaurants and retail; and lastly exit information.

Pictograms for water taps, wheelchair assistance, ramps, tourist information, mobile-charging points, escalators etc. have been standardised.

Three railway stations– Rani Kamalapati, Gandhinagar Capital, and Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal have already been commissioned along these lines, the official said.

One-stop centres for zero waste to be launched in cities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Used clothes can be deposited at the one-stop centres for repurposing.

In a step towards cutting down waste generation in urban India, the government will launch one-stop centres where citizens can deposit old clothes, shoes, books, toys and plastic that can be reused or recycled.

These special "Reduce, Recycle and Reuse" centres are to be launched nationwide on May 20. Individuals, institutions and commercial enterprises can deposit the items at these hubs.

The items will then be given to different stakeholders to be refurbished for reuse or would be made into new products contributing to a circular economy, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation said in a statement on Monday.

These 'RRR' centres would be set up as part of a nationwide campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' ('My Life, My Clean City') under the aegis of the Swacch Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) to strengthen citizens' resolve to reduce, reuse and recycle, the Ministry said.

The objective of the campaign is to take collective action for the protection and conservation of the environment by adopting sustainable daily habits. "The 3Rs form the backbone of 'Waste to Wealth' and has empowered many craftsmen, recyclers, self-help Groups, entrepreneurs, startups, etc. to recycle waste into a host of products," a senior official in the Urban Affairs Ministry said.

The campaign will culminate on World Environment Day on June 5.

ED freezes assets worth ₹457 crore of businessman

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has unearthed properties estimated at ₹457 crore during searches on the residential and business premises of businessman Santiago Martin and others under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The investigating agency took steps to freeze the assets by treating them as proceeds of crime.

Acting on the Central Bureau of Investigation's final report on the charges against Mr. Martin and others relating to the sale of lotteries of the Government of Sikkim in Kerala, the ED launched a money laundering investigation against the accused.

Searches were carried out on May 11 and 12 in Coimbatore and Chennai after a case was registered against Mr. Martin and others under the PMLA.

The premises covered included the registered office of Future Gaming Solutions India Private Limited, Coimbatore, the master distributor of Sikkim Lotteries, the residential premises of Mr. Martin at Coimbatore and the residential premises and business premises of his family members in Chennai.

The ED said in a press release that it found that Mr. Martin and his associate companies and entities had made unlawful gains with a corresponding loss to the Government of Sikkim to the extent of ₹910 crore on account of inflating the prize-winning tickets' claim for the period from 01.04.2009 to 31.08.2010.

Several investments of the group concerns were identified and orders were issued under the PMLA to freeze movable properties worth ₹157.7 crore, which included fixed deposits and mutual funds, and immovable property documents worth ₹299.16 crore were seized.

Ace wrestlers propose to take agitation against WFI chief to the global arena

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

Former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik interacting with Vinesh Phogat (left) and Sakshi Malik on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Agitating wrestlers on Monday evening gathered in large numbers and marched in protest from Jantar Mantar to Connaught Place stating that they are planning on taking their protest "global" and have approached other Olympic players and sportspersons for support in demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Since April 23, India's ace wrestlers – Sakshi Malik, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat – have been protesting at Jantar Mantar over sexual harassment allegations against Mr. Singh.

Ms. Phogat said, "We shall approach Olympians and Olympic medallists, we will make it global, there are some people trying to tarnish the protest and we are being stalked."

The wrestlers said that their only demand is an arrest.

"This isn't a wrestlers' or female wrestlers' fight, it's a fight for every woman and every sportsperson, today, we call for your support," Sakshi Malik said.

Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad, who met the wrestlers on Monday, said, "It's been a long time and there has been no breakthrough. In a country where the women are let down, the men shouldn't sit inside their homes and watch; we have to come out in large numbers to protest against the injustice."

Former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik visited the wrestlers for the second time and promised them support.

To support the agitation, the wrestlers have asked people to give them a missed call. Ms. Malik said, "If you believe that the wrestlers' struggle is not theirs alone, then you should give the wrestlers a missed call on 9053903100".

Defence Ministry's iDEX reaches milestone

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), has reached a milestone with the signing of the 250th contract, the first one under the Mission DefSpace, and the 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract, on Monday.

The first iDEX contract of Mission DefSpace was exchanged between Additional Secretary (Defence Production), CEO Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) T. Natarajan and CEO InspeCity Arindrajit Chowdhary, one of the winners of the "micropropulsion system for cubesats" challenge, a Ministry statement said.

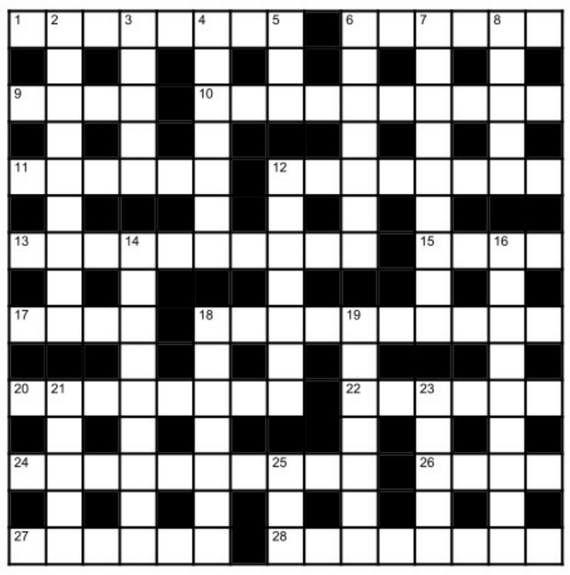
"InspeCity is developing a gas-based (compact micropropulsion system) system. This technology can be integrated with other satellites, including the cubesat swarm being developed under Mission DefSpace," the statement said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13866

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Find a husband for someone close to family visiting from far away (5,3)
6 Jam with band covering Queen (6)
9 In Austria, yes, on 100K hike (4)
10 Country in a seizure, essentially? Somehow bear the start of a new year (10)
11 Wordplay half's boundary? (6)
12 Talked about depressed dawdler (8)
13 He is a Cockney — perhaps mangles "H" in "hurricane"? (10)
15 Periodically edged, ... and finally gone (4)
17 Describe a nation's pulse (4)
18 Criticize judge as well as peculiar, pompous official (10)
20 One challenging journey, originally inspired by October revolution (8)
22 Chatterbox-like boy suppressed by muzzle (6)
24 Sharp and stylish, this lungi worn by husband (10)
26 Is, say, extra large? (4)
27 Country takes a long time for customs (6)
28 Drove away, releasing pressure, for a hundred — did well (8)

Down

2 Weapon placed under an id that is easily read (2,1,6)
3 Stopped; no byes collected (5)
4 Wild animals snore freely after drinking a gallon (7)
5 Left wingers frequently eschewed for shame! (3)
6 Backing public transport, Biden cut in to add some words (7)
7 University rioting ended with apprehension of troublemaker on the loose (9)
8 Track down second lecture (5)
12 Halfback dashed convention (7)
14 Continuing with short underwear? No good (9)
16 Superior U-Boat designed to go through tricky cave (1,3,5)
18 Quietly desires flings (7)
19 Like a gem covered in orange lichens (7)
21 Start to bury a person's remains (5)
23 Investing a bit of money in market makes sense (5)
25 No friend, and 5? I too (3)

SUDOKU

				2	9			
		2	3	5				
1		4						
	3	5			6			1
	8	1	9		3	5	4	
4			2			9	3	
						7		5
				3	7	4		
			8	4				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5800 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

M	G	T	G	C	V	K		
F	E	N	I	O	R	O	L	O
G	I	C	A	L	D	N	O	F
X	O	M	C	I	L	A	N	T
R	O	A	U	L	A	I	T	C
N	H	R	E	K	K	I	N	D
O	F	T	A	H	I	T	I	A
N	I	A	H	I	Z	F	I	T
L	I	K	E	A	G	L	O	V
E	O	R	J	H	V	B	L	E
S	S	Y	O	U	S	E	E	O
F	F	L	H	G	T	R	U	P
O	T	A	G	E	U	P	R	I
S	I	N	G	W	D	N	L	E
T	R	S	E	C	O	N	D	R
A	T	E	A	B	U	T	D	W
S	R	T	Y	N				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	1	4	7	9	5	8	6
5	7	9	3	6	8	2	1	4
8	4	6	5	1	2	9	3	7
4	9	2	1	3	6	7	5	8
1	3	8	9	5	7	6	4	2
6	5	7	2	8	4	1	9	3
7	6	3	8	9	5	4	2	1
9	1	4	6	2	3	8	7	5
2	8	5	7	4	1	3	6	9

FAITH

Role of cow in samskaras

There is a close association of cows and bulls with our samskaras, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse.. Only ghee is used for yagas and homas. A proper sraaddha for pitrus is elaborate. But for those unable to do it, some simpler ways are prescribed. The cow finds a place in one of them. Vishnu Purana says that one must gather grass needed to feed a cow for a whole day. One must stroke the cow's neck and say to it, "This year I am able to do only so much."

The Sastras say that Panchagavya should be used for purification purposes. These days, Panchagavya is used as an organic pesticide. Panchagavya is a mixture of cow's urine, cow dung, milk, ghee and curd. There are different ways of preparing panchagavya. Milk, ghee and cow's urine are taken in equal quantities. A little bit of cow dung and curd are added to this. Another method is to take all five ingredients in equal quantities.

Vishnu Purana gives the benefits of milk and its by-products. Milk can be consumed to get rid of nausea. It gets rid of pitta and vata. It makes the skin lustrous and improves memory power. Curd cools the body. When a cow is milked, there is a layer of froth on top. Vishnu Purana says this froth is a cure for indigestion and helps in the absorption of nutrients, and thus gets rid of weakness and tiredness. Butter, according to the Purana, improves fertility, gives one a glowing skin, cures kapha, gives one strength and is good for the eyes. Ghee is good for the memory and for overall health. Cows should be milked in the early morning hours. Butter, sugar and milk should be mixed and offered to the deity, say Pancharatra Agamas.

MOSCOW

Russia scrambles jet as France, Germany conduct NATO patrols

REUTERS

Russia's Defence Ministry scrambled a fighter jet on Monday after it said it detected French and German patrol aircraft flying towards Russian airspace, a statement said. France and Germany said its planes were conducting regular flights as part of a NATO exercise and behaved in accordance with international law. REUTERS

BEIRUT

Back in the Arab League after 12 years, Syria seeks investments

AP

Syria on Monday called on Arab countries to invest in the war-torn nation, now again a member of the Arab League. This inclusion is seen as another step toward bringing Syrian President Bashar Assad (right, in the photo), back into the fold. The appeal from Syria came during an economic conference in Saudi Arabia. AP

RAMALLAH

Israeli Army kills man in occupied West Bank: Palestinian Ministry

AP

Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian man on Monday in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, with the Army saying it returned fire after being shot at. The Israeli Army said it was conducting an operation in Nablus to prepare to demolish the house of a man suspected of an armed attack in February. AFP

BEIJING

China sentences 78-year-old U.S. citizen to life on spying charges

AP

China sentenced a 78-year-old United States citizen to life in prison on Monday on spying charges, in a case that could exacerbate the deterioration in ties between Beijing and Washington over recent years. Details of the charges against John Shing-Wan Leung have not been publicly released. AP

Thailand's voters reject military-backed parties

Despite their success, MFP and Pheu Thai still face many hurdles to secure power; rumours are swirling that MFP could be dissolved by court order — the same fate that befell on its predecessor

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Thailand's progressive Move Forward Party claimed victory in the country's election on Monday after a stunning result that decimated military-backed parties, which have ruled the kingdom for nearly a decade.

A massive surge for Move Forward (MFP) in Sunday's ballot left it on course to be the biggest party, followed by its rival Opposition – the Pheu Thai movement of billionaire ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thai voters turned out in record numbers to deliver a brutal verdict on former coup leader Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who has been blamed for economic stagnation and a crackdown on rights.

MFP leader Pita Limjaroenrat said he would seek to build a six-party coalition including Pheu Thai, which said it was ready to join, though negotiations of the details have not yet begun.

"I am Pita Limjaroenrat, the next Prime Minister of Thailand," he told reporters at the MFP headquarters in Bangkok.

Victory dance: Pita Limjaroenrat interacting with media at the party headquarters in Bangkok on Monday. AFP

"We are ready to form the government," he added, vowing to be a "Prime Minister for all".

Mr. Pita said he had called Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Pheu Thai's lead Prime Minister candidate, to congratulate her on her campaign and invite her to join the coalition.

"The sentiment has changed, it was right. It was the right timing, people have been through enough," he said.

"Today is a new day, and hopefully it is full of sunshine and hope."

Between them, MFP and Pheu Thai are expected to take 292 out of 500 seats in the Lower House, with the two main Army-allied parties mustering just 76 seats in total.

Lingering fears

But in a kingdom where coups and court orders have often trumped the ballot box, there are fears that the result may yet be thwarted.

MFP has vowed to reform Thailand's strict royal insult laws, putting it on course for a collision with the kingdom's powerful royalist-military establishment.

The newest force in Thai politics, MFP channelled the energy of youth-led pro-democracy protests in 2020 in an election campaign pitting a young generation yearning for change against the conservative old guard embodied by 69-year-old ex-general Prayut.

With ballots counted from 99% of polling stations, Election Commission data showed MFP on 14.1 million in the popular vote followed by Pheu Thai on 10.8 million.

The United Thai Nation party, led by Prayut – the former Army chief who seized power in a 2014 coup – was a distant third on 4.7 million.

Despite their success, MFP and Pheu Thai still face many hurdles to secure power, due to a junta-scripted 2017 Constitution.

Adding to the uncertainty, rumours are already swirling that MFP could be dissolved by court order – the same fate that befell its predecessor Future Forward Party after it performed unexpectedly well in the 2019 elections.

Resurgent Erdogan paints vote as a victory, rival remains hopeful

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday emerged from his toughest election test unbowed and in strong position to extend two decades of his Islamic-rooted rule by another five years in a historic May 28 runoff.

The 69-year-old leader defied pollsters and his country's most dire economic crisis since the 1990s to come within a fraction of a percentage point of winning Sunday's presidential ballot.

His right-wing party also retained control of Parliament through an alliance with ultra-nationalists on a drama-filled night that concluded with Mr. Erdogan delivering a victory speech from a balcony to jubilant supporters.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

He even won in regions hit by a calamitous February quake that claimed more than 50,000 lives -- and where anger at the government's slow response to Turkey's worst disaster of modern times was seething.

Even as it became clear a runoff was likely, Mr. Erdogan, who has governed Turkey as either prime minister or president since 2003, painted Sunday's vote as a victory both for himself and the country.

"That the election results have not been finalized doesn't change the fact that the nation has chosen us," Mr. Erdogan, 69, told supporters in the early hours of Monday.

He said he would respect the nation's decision.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, his main opponent, sounded hopeful, tweeting around the time the runoff was announced: "Don't lose hope.... We will get up and win this election together."

Mr. Kilicdaroglu, 74, and his party have lost all previous presidential and parliamentary elections since he took leadership in 2010.

"The people won!" the right-wing *Yeni Safak* newspaper proclaimed in a banner headline. The pro-government *Sabah* daily called Mr. Erdogan's performance a "superb success". Mr. Erdogan supporter Hamdi Kurumahmut was brimming with confidence in the morning after the night of Turkey's biggest election of its post-Ottoman era. "Erdogan is going to win. He is a real leader. The Turkish people trust him," Mr. Kurumahmut said.

Analysts feel Mr. Kilicdaroglu and his six-party opposition alliance will have a difficult time halting Mr. Erdogan's momentum.

"The President is likely to ride his strong approval rating, surprise win in Parliament, and incumbency advantages to secure re-election," said Emre Peker of the Eurasia Group consultancy.

'We can't control the sky,' Zelensky says as he asks for fighter jets on U.K. visit

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Following visits to Berlin and Paris on Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in London on Monday for talks with U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, as Kyiv attempts to adequately equip itself for a spring counter-offensive against Russia.

During his brief morning visit, Mr. Zelenksy reiterated his country's need for fighter jets. His trip comes as China's special envoy began a visit to Ukraine, Russia and several other European countries, as Beijing attempts to broker a "political settlement" to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Standing next to Mr Sunak at the U.K. Prime Minister's official country residence, Chequers, Mr. Zelensky said, "Today we spoke about the jets – a very important topic for us. Because we can't control the sky, we want to create this jets coalition."

Mr. Sunak highlighted the U.K.'s programme to train Ukrainians to fly jets – with the ultimate goal of equipping the country

The absence of NATO-compatible jets has been a significant disadvantage for Ukraine all along

with an air force that can fly NATO standard F-16 jets.

The absence of NATO-compatible jets has been a significant disadvantage for Kyiv, whose pilots are used to flying MiG-29s and Sukhoi jets. Mr. Zelensky had made a similar public request for jets during a surprise visit to London in February, when he addressed members from both houses of the U.K.

Ukrainian pilots will get some basic training in the U.K., starting this summer, Downing Street said on Monday, while the U.K. works with other countries to give Kyiv F-16 jets, the statement said.

Air defence missiles

However, for now, the transfer of jets to Kyiv will have to wait. Downing Street announced that the U.K. would, over the next few months, send Kyiv hundreds of air defence missiles and additional unmanned aerial systems, including hundreds of new long-range (greater than 200 km range) attack drones.

The U.K. last week had confirmed that it had given Kyiv long range ('Storm Shadow') cruise missiles, the first country to do so, according to Downing Street. On Monday, Mr. Zelenksyy said his country was preparing "very important counter-offensive steps".

"We really need some more time... not too much," he said about his country's preparedness.

Mr. Sunak told reporters that he and Mr. Zelensky had discussed U.K. support to Ukraine, "not just for today, but into the future as well" , adding that they had discussed long-term security arrangements that need to be in place, without going into the details of these.

"It's important for the Kremlin to also know that we're not going away," Mr. Sunak said. Ukraine is expected to be high on the agenda at this week's Council of Europe meeting in Reykjavik and at the May 19-21 Group of Seven (G-7) meeting of advanced economies in Hiroshima.

Protesters ask Chief Justice to step down for releasing Imran Khan

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Thousands of Pakistani government supporters converged on the country's Supreme Court on Monday, in a rare challenge to the nation's judiciary. The demonstrators demanded the resignation of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) over ordering the release of Imran Khan.

The Pakistan Democratic Alliance, a grouping of 13 political parties affiliated with the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, called for the protests. The alliance was behind the joint action to oust Mr. Khan in a no-confidence vote in Parliament April 2022.

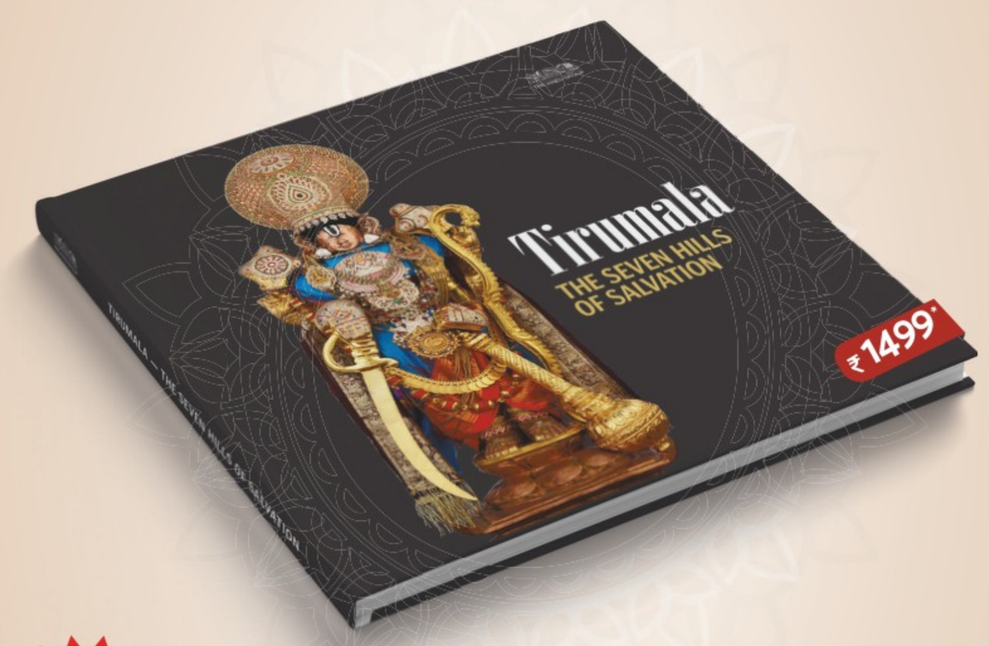
The radical Islamist political party Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam is leading the protest call. Also as part of the alliance, the Pakistan People's Party led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari – the son of assassinated Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto – is joining the protest.

The protest is a sign of escalating tensions between the judiciary and the government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who replaced Mr. Khan after his ouster.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM
THE HINDU GROUP

The coffee-table book features articles by well-known writers on Hindu religion and philosophy on subjects such as Srinivasa Kalyanam, Sri Ramanuja and his association with Tirumala, the story of Ananthalwan, Krishnadeva Raya's Amuktha Malyada, the beauty of Sri Lakshmi Sahasram and on the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi. The collector's edition also features rare pictures of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Padmavathi and Tirumala.



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INBRIEF

SpiceJet arm SpiceXpress to get $100 mn from U.K. group

Budget carrier SpiceJet on Monday said its subsidiary SpiceXpress and Logistics would receive $100 million investment from a U.K.-based group. SpiceJet, which is facing financial headwinds and an insolvency plea by an aircraft lessor, had recently hived off SpiceXpress. U.K.-based SRAM & MRAM Group will invest $100 million in SpiceXpress. Both sides have signed an MoU as part of the investment deal, the airline said on Monday. PTI

Kalyan Jewellers Q4 net profit declines 3.11% to ₹698 crore

Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd. on Monday posted a 3.11% drop in its consolidated net profit to ₹697.99 crore during the fourth quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal, largely due to higher expenses. The company had clocked a net profit of ₹720.40 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2022, according to a regulatory filing. Total income rose to ₹3,396.42 crore during the fourth quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal, from ₹2,868.52 crore in the year-earlier period. PTI

Deloitte acquires Pune firm's assets to lift automation, IoT

Consulting firm Deloitte said it had acquired Tezeva, a connected products platform, and FaktoryWize, a connected operations platform, from Websym Solutions, a Pune-based tech start-up specialising in data-driven solutions and services. The acquisitions will help strengthen its capabilities in IoT and automation, Deloitte said. Co-founders of these platforms Ashish Nene, Subramhanya Hathwar and Shripad Shingne would join Deloitte India as part of the deal.

Exports fell to six-month low in April on anaemic demand

Goods trade deficit managed to hit a 20-month low despite a significant drop in exports, as a consequence of imports plummeting by a sharper 14% as discretionary demand shrinks

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports shrank 12.7% in April to a six-month low of $34.66 billion but imports fell by a sharper 14% to hit $49.90 billion, as per initial estimates the Commerce Ministry released on Monday.

Consequently, the monthly goods trade deficit cooled 17% in April to touch a 20 month-low of $15.24 billion, from $18.35 billion a year earlier. Sequentially, outbound shipments fell 17.3% from March's $41.9 billion, which was the highest exports level since June 2022.

Trade headwinds

Goods exports fell to a six-month low on weak demand, but the trade deficit hit a 20-month low as imports shrank more sharply

- Exports fell 12.7% YoY in April but the monthly goods trade deficit fell 17% year-on-year to $15.24 billion on weak imports
- Outbound shipments shrank 17.3% from March's $41.9 billion, which was the highest exports figure since June 2022
- Officials attributed the decline in exports to faltering demand in key markets and a decline in commodity prices

Officials attributed the decline in exports to faltering demand in key markets and a decline in commodity prices. Director General of Foreign Trade and Additional Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi said the broader picture was that imports had declined sharply.

"Global demand is not looking good from markets like the EU and the U.S. For the next two, three months, the demand scenario doesn't look very optimistic," Mr. Sarangi told *The Hindu*, adding that the government would initiate inter-ministerial talks to find ways to sustain the export momentum.

Wholesale prices shrank 0.9% in April on base effect

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Wholesale prices registered a 0.92% deflation in April, with the WPI-based reading sliding to a 34-month low led by a 2.42% year-on-year contraction in manufactured products' prices and a sharp dip in fuel, power and food inflation rates. The base effect was a key contributor to the deflationary reading as April 2022 saw WPI inflation at 15.4%, which was a record high at the time.

On a month-on-month basis, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) remained unchanged, with the fuel and power index shrinking 2.7%. This was offset by a quickening in primary articles and food inflation to 1.3% and 0.9%, respectively – both of which were the highest sequential upticks in at least six months.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in April is primarily contributed by fall in prices of basic metals, food products, mineral oils, textiles, non-food articles, chemical and chemical products, rubber and plastic products and paper and paper products," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

Wholesale price inflation had slowed in March to 1.34%. April's deceleration marks the 11th straight month of moderating WPI inflation since it scaled an all-time high of 16.6% in May 2022.

Vegetable prices shrank year-on-year for the sixth straight month, but rose 4.5% from March's level.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	62,346	0.51
US Dollar	82.31	-0.15
Gold	61,350	0.62
Brent oil	75.44	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1916.05	-48.65
Adani Ports	694.05	-5.95
Apollo Hosp	4625.85	20.60
Asian Paints	3132.00	0.90
Axis Bank	915.80	5.15
Bajaj Auto	4564.55	25.65
Bajaj Finserv	1421.35	-2.10
Bajaj Finance	6712.30	-2.10
Bharti Airtel	797.05	5.10
BPCL	357.00	-4.90
Britannia Ind	4630.85	14.35
Cipla	922.80	-14.65
Coal India	237.70	2.65
Divis Lab	3276.50	-38.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4518.55	52.45
Eicher Motors	3658.50	32.15
Grasim Ind	1733.35	-20.50
HCL Tech	1099.75	4.25
HDFC	2784.35	8.05
HDFC Bank	1675.80	8.00
HDFC Life	559.30	-1.35
Hero MotoCorp	2691.90	86.00
Hindalco	410.70	5.95
Hind Unilever	2662.25	38.85
ICICI Bank	945.75	1.85
IndusInd Bank	1219.55	10.90
Infosys	1258.35	13.15
ITC	427.80	7.35
JSW Steel	705.55	2.90
Kotak Bank	1973.00	12.40
L&T	2246.85	25.75
M&M	1285.65	9.70
Maruti Suzuki	9207.30	-88.10
NestleIndia	21786.60	-7.55
NTPC	175.95	1.00
ONGC	165.60	0.10
PowerGrid Corp	243.25	1.50
Reliance Ind	2489.25	4.90
SBI Life	1189.45	2.40
State Bank	581.90	3.75
Sun Pharma	953.00	-3.00
TataConsumerProduct	786.95	-2.10
Tata Motors	530.85	14.90
Tata Steel	107.70	0.95
TCS	3255.05	-19.25
Tech Mahindra	1064.45	18.10
Titan	2779.55	6.35
UltraTech Cement	7760.95	58.00
UPL	675.95	-2.25
Wipro	385.75	2.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.10	82.42
Euro	89.26	89.64
British Pound	102.65	103.05
Japanese Yen (100)	60.29	60.53
Chinese Yuan	11.81	11.86
Swiss Franc	91.54	91.95
Singapore Dollar	61.36	61.61
Canadian Dollar	60.78	61.01
Malaysian Ringitt	18.25	18.33
Australian Dollar	54.87	55.14

Source:Indian Bank

NCLAT to rule on Go First lessors' plea on May 22

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal will pass its order on May 22 on petitions filed by three aircraft lessors against Go First's voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings.

A two-member Bench on May 15 reserved its order after completing the hearing on the three lessors' petitions.

The Bench also asked the parties to submit additional documents, if any, in the next 48 hours.

TII Q4 net surges 84%, declares ₹1.5 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) reported standalone net profit for the quarter-ended March rose 84% from the year-earlier period to ₹251 crore.

Total revenue from operations declined to ₹1,663 crore from ₹1,735 crore. The financials included an impairment loss of ₹29 crore, TII said in a filing.

The board approved long-term borrowing of up to ₹300 crore by way of term loan or issue of privately-placed, secured, non-convertible debentures, in one or more tranches to meet the company's fund requirements for FY24. The board of directors has declared a final dividend of ₹1.50 per share.

M.A.M. Arunachalam

"Overall, company has delivered excellent performance in both profit and profitability," said chairman M.A.M. Arunachalam.

NSE launches WTI crude oil & gas futures contracts

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange on Monday launched rupee-denominated futures contracts on underlying NYMEX WTI crude oil and natural gas in its commodity derivatives segment. This came after the exchange, in March, received approval to launch these contracts.

The launch of these contracts will provide trading and hedging opportunities to market participants, with key energy products on a single platform.

'Insurers' GDPI to cross ₹3 lakh crore by FY25'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The insurance industry is expected to net gross direct premium income (GDPI) of about ₹3 lakh crore by FY25 versus ₹2.4 lakh crore at the end of March 2023, ICRA said.

Private insurers' combined ratio is likely to improve and Return on Equity (RoE) is expected at 11.2-12.8% in FY24 and 12.5-13.9% in FY25, the rating firm said in a report.

Most PSU insurers are expected to witness high combined ratio resulting in net losses, though it would be lower compared with the last few years, it said.

Moreover, the capital requirement of three PSU general insurers (excluding New India) is estimated at ₹172-175 billion to meet solvency of 1.50 times as of March 2024, assuming 100% forbearance from the regulator.

The industry's GDPI grew 17.2% YoY in FY23 to ₹2.4 lakh crore with the resumption of economic activity after the waning of COVID-19 infections.

In absolute terms, the credit rating firm said, the incremental growth in the GDPI was at an all-time high of ₹35,000 crore in FY23 (higher than ₹20,000 crore in FY22 and ₹7,000 crore in FY21).

KVB Q4 net rises 59%, declares ₹2 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) reported net profit for the fourth-quarter ended March rose 59% year-on-year to ₹338 crore on higher interest income and better asset quality.

Net interest income rose by 26% to ₹893 crore, KVB said in a statement.

Gross non-performing assets declined by 376 bps and stood at 2.27% while net non-performing assets slid 157 bps to 0.74%.

The board declared a dividend of ₹2 per share.

India sales to outpace industry: Suzuki Motor

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Suzuki Motor Corporation on Monday said it expects its automobile sales in India to be higher than the 5-7% annual growth projected for the domestic market this fiscal.

The Japanese automaker, which has a 56.4% stake in the country's leading carmaker Maruti Suzuki India, on Monday reported a consolidated 30.1% year-on-year increase in net sales at 4,641.6 billion yen for FY 2022 (April 2022-March 2023).

In a statement, Suzuki stated that it aims to recover its market share in India by introducing sports utility vehicles. For the 2022-23 fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India posted a consolidated net profit of ₹8,211 crore against ₹3,879 crore in 2021-22. Net sales last fiscal year stood at ₹1,17,571 crore against ₹88,330 crore in 2021-22. The company sold a total of 19,66,164 vehicles last fiscal.

Wayfair to hire 300 techies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Boston-based e-commerce home decor firm Wayfair, which has entered the Indian market by setting up a technology development centre in Bengaluru, said it would hire 300 techies with deep expertise in emerging technologies such as AI, ML, Data, and Cloud, over the next year.

Cognizant introduces generative AI for firms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cognizant on Monday announced the availability of a new, enterprise-wide platform, Cognizant Neuro AI, designed to provide enterprises with a comprehensive approach to accelerate the adoption of generative AI technology.

This industry-first platform is expected to leverage its consulting, advisory, ecosystem partnership, digital studios, solutions, and delivery capabilities, in conjunction with industry experts, to help clients transition seamlessly into the era of generative AI, according to the tech firm.

Prasad Sankaran

"It is fast becoming clear that businesses must embrace AI without delay to remain competitive," said Prasad Sankaran, EVP of Cognizant's Software and Platform Engineering.

"Cognizant's Neuro AI is aiming to increase ROI potential, minimise risks and get to better business solutions faster," he added.

Sport

Gulveer, Hasan and Priti make the cut for Asian Championships

FEDERATION CUP

Stan Rayan
RANCHI

National Games champion Gulveer Singh helped a bunch of 11 runners achieve the Asian Championship qualification time as he comfortably won the men's 10,000m title in the 26th National Federation Cup athletics championships at the Birsa Munda Stadium here on Monday.

And though there's a crowd making the Asian championship entry standard, only two can go to Thailand for the event in July.

Maharashtra's Sanjivani Jadhav, the women's 10,000m winner, had no such luck missing the Asian standard by 33s.

Gulveer. TWITTER/AFIINDIA

There was some disappointment too with Amoj Jacob, the country's fastest male quartermiler for the third straight year, pulling up during the heats in the morning.

Late in the evening, Tamil Nadu's Rajesh Ramesh joined Amoj Jacob as the fastest Indian quartermiler this year after topping the semifinal heats with 46.13s. National record holder Muhammed Anas was next best with 46.27s.

And in the women's 400m, Aishwarya Mishra moved to the top of this year's India list while emerging as the fastest qualifier to the final in 52.85s.

She also achieved the AFI's Asian meet's qualifying standard (53.54) along with R. Vithya (53.32) and Priya Mohan (53.49).

Muhammed Nur Hasan and Priti Lamba, the men's and women's winners in the 3000m steeplechase, also made the cut for the Asians.

The results (finals):

Men: 1. Gulveer Singh (UP) 29:05.90s, 2. Abhishek Pal (U.P.) 29:07.11, 3. Rohit Kumar (Del) 29:08.95; **3000m steeplechase:** 1. Md Nur Hasan (U.P.) 8:30.56s, 2. Vikram Singh (MP) 8:40.20, 3. Sumit Kumar (Del) 8:48.49.

Women: 10,000m: 1. Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah) 33:32.73s, 2. Kavita Yadav (U.P.) 34:05.47, 3 Seema (HP) 34:43.66s.

3000m steeplechase: 1. Priti Lamba (Har) 9:47.78s, 2. Bhagyashree Lahanu (Guj) 10:24.03s, 3. Komal Chandraka (Mah) 10:25.32.

Hammer throw: 1. Tanya Chaudhary (U.P.) 60.54m, 2. Sarita Singh (U.P.) 60.45, 3. Manpreet Kaur (Pun) 57.08.

India loses to Malaysia, bows out

Press Trust of India
SUZHOU

India was knocked out of the Sudirman Cup badminton tournament after going down 5-0 to Malaysia in its second Group C match of the mixed team championships here on Monday.

India finished third in the group with Chinese Taipei and Malaysia finishing as the top two to qualify for the quarterfinals.

The results: Malaysia bt India 5-0 [Goh Soon Huat & Lai Shevon Jemie bt Dhruv Kapila & Ashwini Ponnappa 21-16, 21-17; Lee Zii Jia bt K. Srikanth 21-16, 21-11; Goh Jin Wei bt P.V. Sindhu 14-21, 21-10, 22-20; Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 21-8, 21-19; Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan bt Treesa Jolly & P. Gayatri Gopichand 21-15, 21-13].

Big scalp: Marozsan took out Alcaraz in straight sets. GETTY IMAGES

Marozsan knocks out Alcaraz in third round

ITALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
ROME

World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz suffered a shock third round defeat in the Italian Open at the hands of unheralded Hungarian Fabian Marozsan, losing 6-3, 7-6(4) on Monday. The 20-year-old Spaniard had come into the tournament on the back of wins in Barcelona and Madrid but was outplayed by the 135th ranked player.

In men's doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden were beaten 2-6, 7-6 (8), [12-10] by Alex de Minaur and Jason Kubler in the second round.

Harmanpreet at the helm

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Harmanpreet Singh will lead a 24-member Indian men's team in the next leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League in Europe, which will be coach Craig Fulton's first assignment.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, P.R. Sreejesh; **Defenders:** Harmanpreet Singh (capt.), Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Sumit, Sanjay, Mandeep Mor, Gurinder Singh; **Midfielders:** Hardik Singh (vice-capt.), Dilpreet Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad; **Forwards:** Abhishek, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, S. Karthi, Gurjant Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Mandeep Singh, Simranjeet Singh.

CONTENTED CAPTAIN

Dhoni happy with Dube's batting in the middle overs

Following his side's six-wicket loss to KKR in the IPL on Sunday, CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni expressed satisfaction with Shivam Dube this season, saying that he has done a great job for the side in middle overs. "It is important for him to keep continuing game after game and not get satisfied with what he has done."

GROUP CULPABILITY

Knight Riders captain Rana fined ₹24 lakh for slow over-rate

Kolkata Knight Riders captain Nitish Rana has been fined ₹24 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during the IPL match against Chennai Super Kings in Chennai on Sunday. As it was the team's second offence, each member of the playing XI, including the Impact substitute, was also fined ₹6 lakh or 25% of the match fee.

PREMATURE END

Stokes to return home after CSK's final league game

Struggling with fitness issues, England Test captain Ben Stokes is set to return home after Chennai Super Kings' final IPL league match to give himself enough time to prepare for next month's Ashes. Stokes, who was bought by CSK for ₹16.25 crore during the IPL auction, participated in just the first two matches for CSK.

COACH'S LAMENT

Missing out on Varun still hurts, says Fleming

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming rued the the lost chance to pick their former net bowler Varun Chakravarthy at the IPL auctions. Varun played a vital role in KKR's six-wicket win over CSK on Sunday. "It still hurts us. He tortured us in the nets for a number of years. Just with the auctions, we couldn't retain him." Fleming said.

Gill pummels Sunrisers' attack with a sizzling century; Titans make playoffs

Defending champion seals a top-two spot; Bhuvi takes the bowling honours for the visitors with a five-for; Shami, Mohit nail four each for the hosts

IPL-16

Shayan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

Shubman Gill jabbed a short-of-length delivery off T. Natarajan for a single to reach his maiden Indian Premier League century (101, 58b, 13x4, 1x6). The young batter took off his helmet, raised the bat in the air and bowed down amid huge cheers from the crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Monday evening.

Gill batted like a dream and guided Gujarat Titans to 188 for nine before the seasoned pacers – Mohammed Shami and Mohit Sharma – claimed four wickets apiece to earn a 34-run win against Sunrisers Hyderabad to confirm a top-two spot in the playoffs.

Put in, Gill and Sai Sudharsan (47, 36b, 6x4, 1x6), who replaced an inured Vijay Shankar, forged a 147-run stand for the second wicket – the highest partnership for any wicket for the Titans – before Bhuvneshwar Kumar pulled things back with five for 30.

Marco Jansen broke the strong partnership by dismissing Sai Sudharsan and, in the following three overs, Hardik Pandya, David Miller and Rahul Tewatia fell.

Sunrisers picked up eight wickets in the last six overs, conceding just 41 runs. In the final over, bowled by Bhuvneshwar, Titans added just two runs and lost four wickets.

Back in the final XI after a month, Sudharsan looked jittery initially. Making most of three missed run outs and a reprieve, the Tamil Nadu batter backed Gill as the latter put the spectators in awe with his strokeplay.

Chasing a tall total, Anmolpreet Singh was dropped by Tewatia in the second ball off Shami, but Rashid caught him at deep thirdman two deliveries later. Yash Dayal struck in his first over, dismissing Abhishek Sharma. Shami removed Rahul Tripathi and Markram in the next two overs.

Reeling at 45 for four in the Powerplay, Mohit dented SRH's hopes further with three quick wickets. Heinrich Klaasen's fighting 44-ball-64 was not enough.

Top shows: Gill combined elegance and enterprise in carving out his maiden IPL century while Bhuvneshwar's wicket-taking burst pegged back the hosts somewhat. VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha c Abhishek b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(3b)*, Shubman Gill c Samad b Bhuvneshwar 101 *(58b, 13x4, 1x6)*, B. Sai Sudharsan c Natarajan b Jansen 47 *(36b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Tripathi b Bhuvneshwar 8 *(6b, 1x4)*, David Miller c Markram b Natarajan 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tewatia c Jansen b Farooqi 3 *(3b)*, Dasun Shanaka (not out) 9 *(7b, 1x4)*, Rashid Khan c Klaasen b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(1b)*, Noor Ahmad run out 0 *(1b)*, Mohammed Shami c Jansen b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(1b)*, Mohit Sharma (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, w-10, nb-2): 13; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 188.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Saha, 0.3 overs), 2-147 (Sudharsan, 14.1), 3-156 (Hardik, 15.2), 4-169 (Miller, 16.4), 5-175 (Tewatia, 17.3), 6-186 (Gill, 19.1), 7-186 (Rashid, 19.2), 8-186 (Noor, 19.3), 9-187 (Shami, 19.5).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-30-5, Jansen 4-0-39-1, Farooqi 3-0-31-1, Natarajan 4-0-34-1, Markram 1-0-13-0, Markande 3-0-27-0, Abhishek 1-0-13-0

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Anmolpreet Singh **(Impact Player in place of Natarajan)** c Rashid b Shami 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Abhishek Sharma c Saha b Dayal 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Aiden Markram c Shanaka b Shami 10 *(10b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tripathi c Tewatia b Shami 1 *(2b)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Miller b Shami 64 *(44b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Sanvir Singh c Sudharsan b Mohit 7 *(6b, 1x6)*, Abdul Samad c sub (Mavi) b Mohit 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Marco Jansen c Hardik b Mohit 3 *(6b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar c Rashid b Mohit 27 *(26b, 3x4)*, Mayank Markande (not out) 18 *(9b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Fazalhaq Farooqi (not out) 1 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-5): 9; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 154.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-6 (Anmolpreet, 0.5), 2-11 (Abhishek, 1.4), 3-12 (Tripathi, 2.1), 4-29 (Markram, 4.2), 5-45 (Sanvir, 6.1), 6-49 (Samad, 6.4), 7-59 (Jansen, 8.6), 8-127 (Klaasen, 16.5), 9-147 (Bhuvneshwar, 18.4).

TITANS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-21-4, Dayal **(Impact Player in place of Gill)** 4-0-31-1, Rashid 4-0-28-0, Mohit 4-0-28-4, Noor 2.5-0-35-0, Tewatia 1.1-0-7-0.

Toss: Sunrisers. **PoM:** Gill
Titans won by 34 runs.

Next assignment

SRH: May 18 **vs. RCB**
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

GT: May 21 **vs. RCB**
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

Inconsistent LSG locks horns with red-hot MI

Blazing away: Super Giants will be keen to find a way to stop Suryakumar's spectacular run. AFP

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

An inconsistent Lucknow Super Giants will take on red-hot Mumbai Indians in their respective penultimate league match of the IPL here at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

The five-time champion is peaking at the right time and has won four of its last five matches on the back of its batters finding form. After a slow start to the tournament, Suryakumar Yadav looks to be back at his innovative and destructive best. In the previous game, the flamboyant batter hit his maiden IPL century as he guided Mumbai to a big win over defending champion and current leader Gujarat Titans.

With the likes of Nehal Wadhera, Ishan Kishan and Tim David also among runs, MI looks like a dangerous batting unit capable of chasing any total, despite skipper Rohit Sharma's lean patch.

A win on Tuesday will help Mumbai leapfrog Chennai Super Kings (15 points) to second in the standings behind Titans who now have 18 points.

Today's match

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 2
LSG 2 | MI 0

PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by **36 runs**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Meanwhile, Super Giants – coming into this game on the back of a good win against Sunrisers Hyderabad – will look to sign off its final home match in style. But it has been a mixed bag for the team in Lucknow, as it has lost its last three games here.

The slow-paced pitch has not suited its batters, and it will be interesting to see if the team opts for a more batting-friendly strip, especially with a top-order heavy with overseas batters.

It has been a start-stop campaign for LSG, which is currently fourth in the table with 13 points. The team will look to build some momentum with a victory, heading into the final week of the league phase.

Dhoni — the ultimate outsider who has gone on to become Chennai's own *Thala*

Ayan Acharya
CHENNAI

M.S. Dhoni's influence on Chennai Super Kings has been far more than just developing an IPL team, and his approach far more holistic than focusing simply on cricket.

Dhoni has always been a player who has worked to his rhythm, and as time passed, the tendency to assess the opposition for weaknesses has become more pronounced.

This is Dhoni 3.0. His teammates have compensated for his almost total lack of time at the crease with the bat, but it also means the opposition has to adjust; he is not where he once used to be, batting at four or five, often barely involved in attacks until suddenly, lethally, he is.

He has batted as low as No. 8 (six innings) and No. 6 (three innings) this season, smacking 98 off 50 balls with 10 sixes and three fours. Dhoni also has the most sixes in the 20th over in the IPL (59) and is miles ahead of the second batter on the list, Kieron Pollard (33).

The most remarkable thing about Dhoni is just how unremarkably 'normal' he is. His arrival in the middle these days has been turned into a spectacle, making his greatness feel more special.

On Sunday night, even before Ravindra Jadeja had walked back to the dugout, came the primal "Dhoni, Dhoni" chant, the soundtrack integral to the Chepauk frenzy. CSK eventually lost the match, but it felt like the crowd had won.

"*Mahi sirf Ranchi ka nahi* (Mahi does not belong to Ranchi alone)," an elderly man had said in 2019, on the sidelines of an India-South Africa Test at the JSCA Stadium. "*Woh to Chennai ka bhi beta hai na ab* (He is also Chennai's son now)," he added.

Truly, Dhoni is the ultimate outsider who became Chennai's own *Thala*.

Special connection: CSK fans hold Dhoni in such high esteem, anything he does casts a spell on them. R. RAGU

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	0.835
Chennai Super Kings	13	7	5	1	15	0.381
Mumbai Indians	12	7	5	0	14	-0.117
Lucknow Super Giants	12	6	5	1	13	0.309
Royal Challengers	12	6	6	0	12	0.166
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	0	12	0.140
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	0	12	-0.256
Punjab Kings	12	6	6	0	12	-0.268
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	12	4	8	0	8	-0.575
Delhi Capitals (E)	12	4	8	0	8	-0.686

After the GT-SRH match on May 15 — *Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated*

ICC all set to discard contentious 'soft signal' by on-field officials

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

The ICC has decided to do away with the contentious 'soft signal' by on-field officials, which had often been criticised by experts as it is believed to have created more confusion for TV umpires after a decision was referred upstairs.

The ICC announced changes to the 'playing conditions' after the CEC approved the recommendations from the men's cricket committee led by Sourav Ganguly and the women's cricket committee.

"The major change involved the soft signal being scrapped, with umpires no longer required to give a soft signal when referring decisions to the TV umpire. The on-field umpires will consult with the TV umpire before any decisions are taken," the ICC said.

The other big announcement involved making helmets mandatory for high-risk positions.

Compulsory use of helmets will be for the following: when batters are facing fast bowlers, when wicket-keepers are standing up to the stumps, when fielders are close to the batter in front of the wicket.

Making helmets mandatory for high-risk positions is another important decision
The changes will come into effect on June 1, 2023 with the Lord's Test between England and Ireland

Free-hit rule

There was also a minor addition to the free-hit rule with any runs scored off a free hit when the ball hits the stumps will be counted as runs scored from now. This would mean that batters can now be bowled off a free hit and attempt a run for the same.

The changes will come into effect on June 1, 2023 with the Lord's Test between England and Ireland, a four-day one-off match.

The following World Test Championship final between India and Australia, starting June 7, will also follow these new playing conditions.

INBRIEF

James Anderson suffers groin injury ahead of Ashes

James Anderson has suffered a "mild strain to his right groin" just a month before the Ashes gets underway, the ECB announced late on Sunday. The 40-year-old, the most successful fast bowler in Test history with 685 wickets, sustained the injury on Thursday's opening day of Lancashire's County Championship match against Somerset.

Aditi finishes a fine tied fifth at Founders Cup; Ko triumphs

After being in title contention for the first three days, India's Aditi Ashok carded a disappointing one-over 73 to finish tied fifth at the Cognizant Founders Cup at Clifton, USA, on Sunday. Korean Ko Jin-young shot 67 to get into a play-off and win the Founders Cup for the third time in five years beating defending champion Lee Min-jae. Ko was winning for the 15th time on the LPGA Tour and the second time this year.

Mustafizur bowls Bangladesh to Ireland series win

Mustafizur Rahman took four wickets as Bangladesh beat Ireland by five runs in the third ODI at Chelmsford on Sunday. Victory gave Bangladesh a 2-0 win in the three-match series with one washout.

The scores: Bangladesh 274 in 48.5 overs (Tamim Iqbal 69, Najmul Hossain Shanto 35, Litton Das 35, Mushfiqur Rahim 45, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 37; Mark Adair 4/40) bt Ireland 269/9 in 50 overs (Paul Stirling 60, Andy Balbirnie 53, Harry Tector 45, Lorcan Tucker 50; Mustafizur Rahman 4/44).

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

We did it! Barcelona players are joy unbound after regaining their supremacy in the Spanish league. FCBARCELONA.COM

Barcelona clinches its 27th LaLiga title

Xavi's men score an emphatic 4-2 win over city rival Espanyol to take the top honours for the first time since 2019

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
BARCELONA

Barcelona claimed its 27th LaLiga title and first for four years on Sunday after two first-half goals from Robert Lewandowski spurred it to a comfortable 4-2 victory over city rival Espanyol. Alejandro Balde, who put it on a plate for Lewandowski's opener, and Jules Kounde found the other goals for Xavi's team.

Barca moved to 85 points from 34 matches and extended its lead at the summit to an unassailable 14 points over second-placed Real Madrid.

Barcelona will have to wait until Saturday to lift the trophy when it hosts fourth-placed Real Sociedad in front of their jubilant fans who will pack out the Camp Nou stadium.

Emotional moment

It will no doubt be an emEotional occasion for captain Sergio Busquets, who last week announced that he will be leaving Barca after 15 years at the end of the season.

"I'm delighted, I think we had a spectacular campaign and clinched it today with a great win," said Busquets.

Arsenal stunned

Meanwhile, in the Premier League, the flickering embers of Arsenal's title dream was all but extinguished as it suffered a 3-0 home defeat by Europechasing Brighton and Hove Albion on Sunday.

A fifth league defeat of the season left Arsenal on 81 points with two games remaining to Manchester City's 85 with three left and victory for Pep Guardiola's side next weekend against Chelsea would wrap up City's fifth title in six seasons.

The results:

LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Seferovic 60) lost to Valencia 2 (Kluivert 8, Mari 88); Elche 1 (Fidel 41) bt Atletico Madrid 0; Real Valladolid 0 lost to Sevilla 3 (Mir 50, Gomez 78, Corona 90+3); Espanyol 2 (Puado 73, Joselu 90+2) lost to Barcelona 4 (Lewandowski 11, 40, Balde 20, Kounde 53).

Premier League: Arsenal 0 lost to Brighton 3 (Enciso 51, Undav 86, Estupinan 90).

Serie A: Bologna 0 drew with Roma 0; Juventus 2 (Fagioli 55, Bremer 79) bt Cremonese 0.

Lukaku back to his best as Inter Milan eyes CL final

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Romelu Lukaku's return to sparkling form has given Inter Milan an extra weapon ahead of Tuesday's Champions League semifinal decider with AC Milan.

Out for much of the season with injuries and a damaged reputation following a disastrous World Cup, Lukaku has worked his way back to his best.

Milan comes into the match in disarray after an embarrassing defeat at lowly Spezia.

The semifinal: Inter Milan vs AC Milan, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Best shooters named for shotgun World Cup

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The cream of Indian shooting will compete in the Shotgun World Cup, scheduled to be staged in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from May 22 to 28.

The World Cup has attracted 41 countries and 233 shooters as per the entry list so far.

Indian team:

Trap: Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu, Bhowneesh Mendiratta; Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak, Shreyasi Singh.

Skeet: Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Gurjoat Khangura, Anantjeet Singh Naruka; Ganemat Sekhon, Maheshwari Chauhan, Darshna Rathore.

SNAPSHOTS

Indian girls clinch gold

ITANAGAR: The Indian girls won gold in the under-19 team event of the South Asian youth table tennis championship in Itanagar on Monday. In the last round-robin match, India beat Sri Lanka 3-0 and booked its ticket to Doha for Asian youth event in July.

Afghanistan names squad for Lanka ODIs

Afghanistan on Monday named a squad packed with spin bowlers for the three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka next month. Ace spinner Rashid Khan and experienced spinning all-rounder Mohammad Nabi will be assisted by Mujeeb Ur Rahman and fast-rising Noor Ahmad on the tour.

The squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Rahmat Shah, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Alikhil, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Abdul Rahman, Fazalhaq Farooqi and Farid Ahmad Malik.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Triumphant: The victorious Bengaluru FC squad. FOCUS SPORTS/RFDL

BFC retains RFDL title

Defending champion Bengaluru FC (BFC) defeated Sudeva Delhi FC on penalties to emerge victorious in the final of the second season of the Reliance Foundation Developmental League (RFDL) at Navi Mumbai. The teams were tied 2-2 at the end of regulation time.

The result: Final: Bengaluru FC 2 (Thoi Singh 23, Satendra Singh Yadav 67) drew with Sudeva Delhi 2 (Seilenthang Lotjem 17, Daniel Gurung 48) BFC won 4-3 on penalties.

Ambedkar FC runs riot

Ambedkar FC whipped Sporting Youths FC 6-0 in the BDFA 'C' Division football league here.

The results: Ambedkar FC bt Sporting Youths FC 6-0; Vivekananda FC bt Bangalore Reds FC 4-1; Dharmaraja Union FC bt ISRO FC 2-1.

Srithan stars in PESCA's win

V. Srithan (109) helped PESCA CBT defeat EISB in the Tiger Cup under-16 tournament here.

The scores: Silicon CA 108/8 in 30 overs (Harshit Pai 25, K. Gupta 3/12) lost to RXCA 109/4 in 25.4 overs (Nikhil George 45, Rushil Ram 29, Aditya Shahapurkar 3/17).

EISB 206/7 in 30 overs (Aadharsh 66, Abhishek 35, Arnav 31, S. Yash 31, Parth Ranjith 28, M. Dhruv 3/41) lost to PESCA CBT 202/8 in 30 overs (V. Srithan 109, Devansh Joshi 30, Raghav Karthik 4/24, Vadant Kumar 3/51).

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AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023 (₹ in lakh)

TOTAL BUSINESS ₹1,40,806 CR
TOTAL DEPOSITS ₹76,638 CR
TOTAL ADVANCES ₹64,168 CR
NET PROFIT FOR THE QUARTER ₹338 CR
ROA 1.50%
NIM 4.37%
Net NPA 0.74%
PCR 92.14%
SLIPPAGE RATIO 0.75%

	PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
		Audited			
1.	Total income from Operations (net)	216913	161475	767549	635673
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	44604	30119	143686	93092
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	44604	30119	143686	93092
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	33782	21347	110609	67327
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	Not applicable			
6.	Paid - up Equity Share Capital	16041	16000	16041	16000
7.	Reserves (Including proposed dividend and excluding Revaluation Reserve)	842364 (As on 31.03.2023)	743620 (As on 31.03.2022)	842364 (As on 31.03.2023)	743620 (As on 31.03.2022)
8.	Securities Premium Amount	Not applicable			
9.	Net Worth	837867	741781	837867	741781
10.	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt (%)	34.01	36.37	34.01	36.37
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.09
13.	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs. 2/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)*				
	a. Basic (₹)	4.21	2.67	13.81	8.42
	b. Diluted (₹)	4.20	2.67	13.78	8.41
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	Not applicable			
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve				
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio				
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio				

*Not annualized for the quarter.

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the Bank https://www.kvb.co.in/about-us/financial-performance/ and stock exchanges at http://www.nseindia.com and http://www.bseindia.com. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange and can be accessed on http://www.nseindia.com.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors,
B. Ramesh Babu
MD & CEO

Place: Karur | Date: May 15, 2023

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED,Registered & Central Office, No.20, Erode Road, Vadivel Nagar, L.N.S., Karur - 639 002. Tek No: 04324-269441 | Fax No: 04324- 225700 | E-mail: kvb_sig@kvbmail.com | CIL No: L65110TN1916PLC001295